

Cimatu: Cebu City may revert to GCQ in 2-3 weeks

Updated June 25, 2020, 10:02 PM

By *Minerva Newman and Calvin Cordova*

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu is optimistic that Cebu City may revert from its current Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) status to General Community Quarantine (GCQ) after June 30 following the implementation of strict border controls.



Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu
(RTVM / MANILA BULLETIN)

Cebu Governor Gwen Garcia on Wednesday issued Executive Order (EO) No. 17-H revoking EO No. 17-D that she issued last June 3 easing border restriction "relative to the entry of workers in permitted establishments."

In the new EO, which will take effect at 12:01 a.m. today, June 26, the governor stated that there is an urgent need to reinstitute border controls as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues to spread to different municipalities and component cities of the province.

The Cebu Provincial Police Office (CPPO) will be mounting checkpoints in the borders of Mandaue City in the north, Balamban in the west, and Cordova town in Mactan Island.

All barangays in the province were also advised to reinstall barangay control points.

"We're also asking help from our barangays to disseminate that only authorized persons are allowed to go out," said Col. Roderick Mariano, chief of the Cebu Provincial Police Office (CPPO).

More than 1,600 personnel from the CPPO, the Bureau of Fire Protection, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and other force multipliers will be utilized to man the border controls.

Improving situation

Cimatu currently heads Region 7's COVID-19 Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF MEID).

In a press briefing on Wednesday evening, Cimatu said his team aspires for the 7-day doubling time to decrease COVID-19 cases in Cebu City.

Cimatu, together with the provincial and some local government units (LGUs), saw firsthand the city's COVID-19 "ground zero" and reviewed and adopted the local IATF's COVID-19 action to contain the disease in Cebu.

He said the COVID-19 situation in Cebu City is improving and has seen a decrease in the number of cases on Wednesday based on his actual inspection. However, based on his assessment, there are several aspects of implementation that need to be improved.

Cimatu said strict compliance with the IATF directives and ECQ guidelines, existing local policies, safety and health protocols under ECQ must be reinforced.

He visited the isolation centers/ facilities in the city and in the barangays here and said that he was impressed with the way they are being managed.

Cimatu also inspected Barangay Mambaling which is described to be the virus epicenter in Cebu City.

The IATF has started the organizational set-up for the barangay/granular lockdown of 10 barangays with the highest number of COVID-19 cases, namely: Mambalaing, Kalunasan Cebu City Jail, Barrio Luz, Labangon, Suba, Kamputhaw, Tejero, Sambag II, Duljo Fatima, and Basak San Nicolas.

Cebu City quarantine passes were also suspended on June 23. QR codes will be issued to strictly implement the "One-ECQ-pass-One-Household" scheme.

Frontliners such as health workers, food delivery service, and members of media are the only ones exempted from the lockdown.

Cimatu called on the Department of Health (DOH-7) to reconcile its COVID-19 data with the ones coming from the barangays for accurate planning and response.

He also urged the local government units in Cebu to account for the locally stranded individuals (LSIs) for proper quarantine procedures.

As of Wednesday, Cebu province, which has a population of 3.2 million, has 749 COVID-19 cases with 186 recoveries and 71 deaths.

Of the total cases, 492 are considered active cases with 121 patients currently admitted in hospitals. There are 135 symptomatic and 236 asymptomatic patients who are either in home isolation or quarantine facilities.



Cimatu, hinamon ang Cebu City execs na i-target ang ECQ downgrade

June 25, 2020 @ 9:31 AM 23 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Hinamon ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Roy Cimatu ang city at barangay officials na i-target ang downgrading ng kasalukuyang enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) sa mas mababang klasipikasyon.

Ito ang hamon ni Cimatu sa isang press briefing kila Mayor Edgardo Labella, Governor Gwendolyn Garcia at iba pang opisyal na nag-iikot sa mga high-risk barangay.

“My challenge to the barangay captains is to aspire that goal to lower the confirmed cases here,” aniya.

Inaatasan na rin niya ang mga kapitan ng barangay na magpatupad ng granular lockdown sa kanilang nasasakupan kung may mataas na kaso ng virus.

Giit pa ni Cimtau, inaayos na niya ang dalawang task forces na Task Force Cebu City at Task Force Cebu Province na aagapay para umasiste sa IATF-IED sa pagpapatupad ng hakbangin laban sa COVID-19. **RNT/FGDC**

Cimatu says 12 Cebu City barangays to be placed

June 26, 2020

TITLE: under 'strict lockdown'

PAGE 1/ 1/2

DATE

Cimatu says 12 Cebu City barangays to be placed under 'strict lockdown'

By [Jonathan L. Mayuga](#)

June 26, 2020

Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, who was tasked by President Duterte to implement the government's Covid-19 response in Cebu City, is eyeing stricter lockdown measures to fight the further spread of the virus in population.

At a Zoom meeting with reporters on Thursday morning, Cimatu said more police and military troops will also be deployed to augment the local policemen assigned in Cebu City, a bustling metropolis with close to a million population, which recently experienced a big jump in Covid-19 cases.

The dreaded disease continues to grip the city, according to the Department of Health. As of June 24, there are a total of 32,295 confirmed cases, 8,656 recovered, and 1,204 deaths. On the same day, Cebu City recorded 4,479 cases, 89 deaths and 2,177 recoveries.

According to Cimatu at least 12 of the 80 barangays in Cebu City have been identified "hot spots" for Covid-19 cases. He issues the assessment following a meeting with members of the Covid-19 Task Force in Region 7 on Wednesday, including Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella.

"The entire city is now under ECQ [enhanced community quarantine], that means lockdown," he said. Cimatu added he is eyeing stricter "lockdown" measures for the (12 barangays) to prevent further spread of the dreaded disease.

The 12 barangays are Sambang II, Kamputhaw, Sambag I, Basak San Nicolas, Mabolo, Guadalupe, Lahug, Buljo Fatima, Tinago, Tisa, Ermita and Tejero. These barangays have been identified as those with "high numbers of Covid-19 infected cases."

However, Cimatu said, there's a need to harmonize the data coming from the barangays, the city and the Department of Health.

"We need to harmonize the data because we are getting different numbers," he said.

According to Cimatu, 160 Philippine National Police Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) troopers and 200 more policemen from different units of the PNP from the Visayas will be deployed to ensure that the ECQ rules are observed.

On top of this, military personnel from Cebu, Bohol, and Siquijor will be asked to join the reinforcement for the city.

The quarantine passes in Cebu City were revoked on Wednesday, hence, placing the entire city's 80 barangays under total lockdown anew.

Cimatu and Labella said their first order in their next meeting will include the distribution of the new quarantine passes, as well as a schedule of days and the limited number of hours people will be allowed to go out and operating hours of grocery stores and markets.

Cimatu says 12 Cebu City barangays to be placed

June 26, 2020

TITLE: under 'strict lockdown'

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

Meanwhile, the DENR chief said the economic impact of the implementation of the “total lockdown” in the city will be addressed.

Cimatu said on Wednesday he held a multi-party stakeholders meeting in Cebu City, including the private sector, during which they were informed of the decision to implement stricter lockdown measures.

Labella, for his part, said that the private sector is willing and able to provide the much-needed assistance as experienced during the first time the city was placed under ECQ.

Meanwhile, to discourage the people from violating ECQ measures, Cimatu and Labella agreed that stiffer penalty should be imposed.

Among the “stricter measures” being eyed is to limit the number ECQ pass holders to just one per family. The ECQ pass holder will also have a schedule during which he or she will be allowed to leave the house “only to buy essential goods.”

Operation of grocery stores and public markets will also have a strict schedule to be decided later on by the task force to limit interaction of grocery or market-goers.

Meanwhile, Cimatu said members of the Task Force Covid-19 will meet on Thursday afternoon to finalize the plan to distribute new IDs, or ECQ passes.

“Unlike before that the issuance is relegated only to the barangays, the police will now be part of the ECQ pass distribution,” Labella added.

Labella said minimum health requirements will be imposed, such as the proper wearing of face masks and social distancing, to those who will be allowed to go outside their homes.

“There will be no touching of ears, eyes, and nose, as a minimum health protocol,” he added.

The city, the mayor said, is ready to distribute food packs anew to the city’s residents, recognizing its potential economic impact to those who will again be placed out of work with the implementation of the ECQ.

Nevertheless, he said, the people, as well as the private sector, are aware of the implications.

“We have experienced this when the ECQ was first imposed in Metro Manila, and we are aware of the implications,” he said.

Labella said the Office of the Presidential Adviser for the Visayas has already donated 1 million surgical face masks and an additional 1 million more from the local government will be ready for distribution to city residents.

12 Cebu City villages face lockdown

By [The Manila Times](#)

June 26, 2020

The Regional Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) plans to place 12 barangay (villages) in Cebu City under hard lockdown to contain the rise of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) cases in Central Visayas' premier metropolis.



SHOCK TROOPERS Over 100 personnel of the Philippine National Police-Special Action Force gather at Pier 15 in Manila on June 25, 2020 to board the BRP Gabriela Silang enroute to Cebu City to enforce the government's health protocols against Covid infection. Cebu City is experiencing a surge in the number of virus cases and has been put under enhanced community quarantine. PHOTO BY RENE H. DILAN

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, concurrent deputy implementer of the IATF-EID for the Visayas, said he would ask the chief executives of the barangay to explain the surge of Covid-19 cases in their communities.

“What happened; what did you do? They have a very big responsibility. I will be talking to them later at pakita ko sa kanila kung gaano kahalaga ang pagiging (I will show them how important it is to be a) Barangay Captain,” Cimatu told reporters in a virtual media briefing Thursday.



12 barangay sa Cebu City, isasailalim sa istriktong lockdown – Cimatu

June 25, 2020 @ 2:11 PM 18 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tinutukoy bilang “hotspots” para sa coronavirus disease 2019 ang nasa 12 na barangay sa Cebu City at isasailalim sa mahigpit na lockdown, ayon kay Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu nitong Huwebes.

Sa isang press briefing, sinabi ni Cimatu na 160 kasapi ng Special Action Forces at 200 police personnel ang ipadadala bilang augmentation forces para sa pagpapatupad ng community quarantine measures sa lungsod.

Narito ang sumusunod na 12 barangay na isasailalim sa mahigpit na lockdown:

1. Sambag II
2. Kamputhaw
3. Sambag 1
4. Basak San Nicola
5. Mabolo
6. Guadalupe
7. Lahug
8. Duljo Fatima
9. Tinago
10. Tisa
11. Ermita
12. Tejero

Ayon kay Cimatu, may mataas na kaso ng COVID-19 ang mga naturang lugar.

Ipatutupad ang mahigpit na lockdown upang maiwasan pa ang pagpasa ang virus sa ibang komunidad, dagdag ni Cimatu.

Ayon sa kalihim, pag-uusapan ang pagpapatupad ng quarantine passes kasama ang ibang concerned officials. *RNT/MM*

Source: <https://remate.ph/12-barangay-sa-cebu-city-isasailalim-sa-istriktong-lockdown-cimatu/>

12 barangays in Cebu considered COVID-19 hotspots, to be placed under lockdown — Cimatu

June 25, 2020 5:45 PM by [Christhel Cuazon](#)



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu speaks during a turn over ceremony at the Department of Environment in Quezon City Metro Manila in the Philippines May 10, 2017. REUTERS/Erik De Castro

Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu announced on Thursday that at least 12 barangays in Cebu City will be placed under a strict lockdown measure after being identified as hotspots for coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Cimatu, who was tasked by President Rodrigo Duterte to lead the COVID-19 fight in Cebu City, said that the following areas which have registered the highest number of cases will be under lockdown:

- Sambag II
- Kamputhaw
- Sambag 1
- Basak San Nicola
- Mabolo
- Guadalupe
- Lahug
- Duljo Fatima
- Tinago
- Tisa
- Ermita
- Tejero

Police Lieutenant General Guillermo Eleazar, commander of Joint Task Force COVID Shield, said 160 members of Special Action Force (SAF) and 200 more police personnel will be deployed to Cebu City to help impose discipline on “hardheaded” residents.

According to Cimatu, the implementation of quarantine passes will be discussed by concerned officials later in the day.

On Monday, Duterte said that Cebuanos too much confidence and complacency led to the increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in Central Visayas.

“This is not the first time. This is not the first national emergency na mabagal kumilos ang mga Cebuano. Kung gagalaw naman ang dami pang sinasabi,” Duterte said in a public address.

His statement was refuted by Vice Mayor Mike Rama saying that the local government of Cebu City was “never too lazy” when it comes to disaster and crisis response.

“You know I’ve been mayor and we’ve never been too lazy when it comes to a crisis, when it comes to disaster,” Rama said in an interview with CNN Philippines’ The Source.

Source: <https://dzhnews.com.ph/cimatu-12-barangays-in-cebu-considered-covid-19-hotspots-to-be-placed-under-lockdown/>

12 Cebu City barangays to be placed under strict

June 26, 2020

TITLE: lockdown - Cimatu

PAGE 1/ 1/2

DATE

12 Cebu City barangays to be placed under strict lockdown —Cimatu

Published June 25, 2020 1:47pm

Updated June 25, 2020 1:54pm

By JOVILAND RITA, GMA News

At least 12 barangays in Cebu City were identified as hotspots for COVID-19 and will be placed under strict lockdown, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said Thursday.

In a press briefing, Cimatu — [tasked](#) by President Rodrigo Duterte to address the spike in COVID-19 cases in Cebu City — said 160 members of the [Special Action Forces \(SAF\)](#) and 200 more police personnel will be deployed as augmentation forces for the enforcement of community quarantine measures in the city.

The following are the 12 barangays that will be placed under strict lockdown:

1. Sambag II
2. Kamputhaw
3. Sambag 1
4. Basak San Nicola
5. Mabolo,
6. Guadalupe
7. Lahug
8. Duljo Fatima
9. Tinago
10. Tisa
11. Ermita
12. Tejero

Cimatu said these areas have the high number of COVID-19 cases.

SAF

Police Lieutenant General Guillermo Eleazar, commander of Joint Task Force COVID Shield, said members of SAF, an elite unit of the Philippine National Police (PNP), will be deployed to Cebu City to help impose discipline on "hardheaded" residents.

12 Cebu City barangays to be placed under strict

June 26, 2020

TITLE: lockdown - Cimatu

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

"[The] SAF commandos are known to be strict in enforcing the quarantine rules which subsequently compelled hardheaded residents to stay in their houses," he said, referring to the time SAF forces help enforce enhanced community quarantine in Metro Manila.

The strict lockdown will be implemented to avoid further transmission of the virus to other communities, Cimatu added.

According to Cimatu, the implementation of quarantine passes will be discussed by concerned officials later in the day.

President Rodrigo Duterte designated Cimatu to oversee government efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19 in Cebu City, which has one of the highest numbers of COVID-19 cases nationwide.

Residents unhappy

Cebu City residents, meanwhile, lamented the lockdown imposed by authorities, saying that they were not notified in advance.

On Wednesday, some 17 individuals were arrested in the city for violation of quarantine protocols, bringing the total of violators to 836 since ECQ was re-imposed last June 16, 2020.

In a Facebook post, Mayor Edgar Labella appealed for "calm and understanding" from his constituents following the enforcement of the lockdown and the temporary suspension of quarantine passes of more or less 250,000 residents. —**KBK, GMA News**



Philippine Star ✓

14 hrs · 🌐



Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, who was recently tasked by President Duterte to head an “adjunct” task force to address the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) contagion in Cebu City, said 12 barangays there will be placed under extreme lockdown for having the highest number of confirmed cases.

In a virtual presser Thursday, Cimatu said that out of the 80 barangays in Cebu City, 12 were identified as “hotspots” and will be under an extreme form of lockdown for indefinite period, even as the entire city was already placed under an enhanced community quarantine (ECQ). | via Elizabeth Marcelo



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#NewsPatrol: Maaaring ilagay sa mahigpit na lockdown ang 12 barangay sa Cebu City, ayon kay DENR Sec. Roy Cimatu.
#COVID19Quarantine

Nilinaw naman ng DOH na hindi nito ini-endorso ang paggamit ng "tuob" bilang panangga sa #COVID19.



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160 SAF personnel to help impose lockdown in Cebu

June 26, 2020

TITLE: City

PAGE 1/ 1/2

DATE

160 SAF personnel to help impose lockdown in Cebu City

By John Rey Saavedra June 25, 2020, 8:38 pm



TOTAL LOCKDOWN. Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu briefs reporters on the progress of his visits to the barangays in Cebu City to know the real Covid-19 situation, in a press conference on Thursday (June 25, 2020) at the Central Command. Cimatu said at least 160 personnel of the Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police will be coming to Cebu City to reinforce the existing troops in implementing a strict ECQ which is tantamount to a "total lockdown". (Screengrab from Cebu City Hall PIO)

CEBU CITY – At least 160 uniformed personnel of the Philippine National Police's elite Special Action Force (SAF) will be coming to enforce stringent protocols here which is "essentially in a total lockdown", Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu said on Thursday.

Cimatu, appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte to oversee intensified government actions to solve the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) crisis in the city, said the SAF will help implement strict city-wide enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) down to the barangays.

"What we have now are just the local PNP that are available. That's why we asked for additional personnel. It's because ECQ is not being observed well. The people don't understand that the ECQ is really a total lockdown," he said in Filipino during a press briefing at the Central Command.

Cimatu met with officials of various agencies to fully enforce the lockdown in the city, which he said, is similar to what happened in the National Capital Region at the onset of the public health crisis brought by the coronavirus.

Other enforcement agencies like the Philippine Coast Guard also committed to send at least 200 personnel to augment the existing forces in this city.

Meanwhile, Cimatu directed the regional director of the Department of Health (DOH) and the head of the Cebu City Health Department to harmonize their daily figures of patients infected with the Covid-19.

"The figures are different. They are not harmonized. So that we will know the entire picture on the pandemic in Cebu City based on actual figures," he said.

Mayor Edgardo Labella said the city government is ready for the total lockdown that the national government will impose in the city.

160 SAF personnel to help impose lockdown in Cebu

June 26, 2020

TITLE: City

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

Labella earlier said the City Hall is working out the release of PHP500 million that will be used for aid distribution during the second ECQ until June 30.

The mayor also committed to assist close to 12,000 locally stranded individuals (LSI) who were not allowed to travel back to their respective towns outside Cebu due to the alarming data of coronavirus infections in the city.

“Although not all of these LSIs are from Cebu City as some of them came from neighboring towns in Cebu, we will still help,” Labella said.

Cimatu said even if the ECQ will be downgraded, the LSIs will still be subjected to 14-day quarantine and testing before they will be sent back to their hometowns. **(PNA)**

150 SAF idedeploy sa Cebu

By [Doris Franche](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon)

- June 26, 2020 - 12:00am



Ayon Kay PNP Deputy Chief for Operations at Joint Task Force Covid Shield Commander PLt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, inaprubahan na ni PNP Chief PGen. Archie Gamboa ang ipadadalang 150 SAF members para mahigpit na ipatupad ang pananatili sa bahay ng mga tao at paggamit ng face masks sa mga mahahalagang lakad sa labas ng bahay.

The STAR/KJ Rosales, file

MANILA, Philippines — Dahil sa pagtaas ng bilang ng kaso ng COVID-19, ipadadala ng Philippine National Police ang dalawang company ng Special Action Force (SAF) para tumulong sa pagpapatupad ng Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) sa Cebu City.

Ayon Kay PNP Deputy Chief for Operations at Joint Task Force Covid Shield Commander PLt. Gen. Guillermo Eleazar, inaprubahan na ni PNP Chief PGen. Archie Gamboa ang ipadadalang 150 SAF members para mahigpit na ipatupad ang pananatili sa bahay ng mga tao at paggamit ng face masks sa mga mahahalagang lakad sa labas ng bahay.

Aniya, ang mga basic health protocols lamang ang dapat na sundin ng publiko upang maiwasan na kumalat ang virus.

Batay sa obserbasyon ng mga opisyal ng Inter Agency Task force on managing emerging infectious diseases (IATF-MEID) at National Task Force on Covid 19 (NTF-Covid-19) sa kanilang pag-inspeksyon sa Cebu na marami ang hindi sumusunod sa quarantine protocols.

Una nang nagpadala ang PNP ng karagdagang 100 pulis mula sa PRO6 at PRO 8 sa Cebu para tumulong sa local police sa pagpapatupad ng ECQ.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2020/06/26/2023632/150-saf-idedeploy-sa-cebu/amp/>

2 SAF companies tasked to enforce Cebu City ECQ

June 25, 2020 | Filed under: Headlines, News | Posted by: Tempo Desk

BY AARON RECUENCO

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TWO companies of the police's elite Special Action Force (SAF) will be deployed to Cebu City to assist in the strict implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) amid the continuous rise of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in the area.

Police Lt. Gen. Guillermo Lorenzo Eleazar, commander of the Joint Task Force COVID Shield, said the move is aimed at duplicating the government's success in controlling the movement of people and in compelling them to observe quarantine protocols during the time when Metro Manila was still under ECQ.



MEMBERS of the PNP Special Action Force (SAF) line up for their COVID-19 rapid tests at Pier 15 in Port Area, Manila before boarding the BRP Gabriela that would ferry them to Cebu City where they will assist in the strict implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine. (MB/Jansen Romero)

The deployment of SAF has been proven effective in forcing residents of Metro Manila since the third week of April to stay in their houses.

SAF commandos are known to be strict in enforcing the quarantine rules which subsequently compelled hardheaded residents to stay in their houses.

Based on the JTF COVID Shield data, there was a significant decline of quarantine violators since SAF commandos were deployed in the National Capital Region during the time when Metro Manila was under ECQ.

"Mobility assets of SAF will also be deployed in Cebu City that include Multi-Purpose Armored Vehicles similar to what we used in the implementation of ECQ in Metro Manila. We have already coordinated with the Philippine Coast Guard and the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the deployment of SAF personnel and their mobility assets," said Eleazar.

The official said that the SAF deployment is composed of at least 150 personnel and are set to be sent to Cebu City starting Thursday.

It was Interior Secretary Eduardo Año, an official of the National Task Force Against COVID-19) who ordered the deployment of SAF commandos after observing that Cebu City residents are not strictly following the ECQ rules.

Aside from SAF commandos, soldiers have also been deployed in Cebu City and nearby areas in order to augment the local police manning the checkpoints and conducting regular patrol to enforce quarantine rules on wearing of face masks, physical distancing and unnecessary movement from the residents' houses.

"The Central Command is also using their air assets over Cebu City to check on observance of physical distancing on orders of Lt. Gen. (Roberto) Ancan," said Eleazar.

For his part, SAF director Maj. Gen. Amando Clifton Empiso expressed confidence that they would be able to succeed in containing the unnecessary movement of people in Cebu City and nearby areas based on the ECQ guideline.

More forces coming to Cebu City to implement 'total lockdown'—Cimatu

By: Delta Dyrecka Letigio - CDN Digital|June 25,2020 - 01:26 PM



Cops from the Police Regional Office 8 prepare to board a ship going to Cebu City at the Ormoc City Seaport. |
INQUIRER.net File Photo

CEBU CITY, Philippines — Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, the Interagency Task Force's (IATF) overseer in Cebu, said that more forces will be coming to implement the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), which he says is essentially in a total lockdown.

In a short press conference on Thursday morning, June 25, 2020, Cimatu said that at least 160 personnel of the Special Action Forces (SAF) are on their way to augment the police force here.

The augmented forces will serve as additional law enforcement to ensure that the public will follow the ECQ guidelines on wearing masks, practicing social and physical distancing, and curfew.

“Yung mga local PNP lang kasi ang available, that’s why we asked for additional personnel. Di pa masyadong na oobserve ang ECQ, di pa maintindahana nga mga tao that the ECQ is really a total lockdown,” Cimatu said.

(The local police are the ones available, that’s why we asked for additional personnel. ECQ isn’t observed strictly here, and people don’t understand that ECQ is really a total lockdown.)

“We have to do this to slow down the effects of the COVID here in Cebu City,” he added.

Cimatu said they are currently meeting with various agencies to fully implement the lockdown in Cebu City, similar to that of the National Capital Region (NCR), to reduce the cases of the highly infectious virus.

More forces with at least 200 personnel will also be coming in from other agencies like the Coast Guard as well. The IATF is already preparing for the logistics of this lockdown.

Mayor Edgardo Labella said the city is prepared for this intensified lockdown when the augmented forces come in. /bmjo

Source: <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/321510/more-forces-coming-to-cebu-city-to-implement-total-lockdown-cimatu>

Cebu quarantine passes under strict monitoring

Published 18 hours ago on June 25, 2020 02:08 PM

By [Rico Osmeña](#)



PRESIDENTIAL Spokesperson Harry Roque (center) graces the opening of NOAH (New Normal Oasis for Adaptation and a Home) Complex at South Road Properties in Cebu. The facility houses asymptomatic Covid-19 patients. (Photo: Gwen Garcia Facebook)

Mayor Edgardo Labella has realized it was a mistake issuing more than 250,000 quarantine passes in Cebu City.

The passes, partly blamed for unabated coronavirus cases in the city which is still under enhanced community quarantine, have been canceled by the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

“There should only be one pass per household. Before some households had two passes, sometimes three passes. That can’t be the case now,” Labella said on Wednesday in a press conference with Environment Secretary and Cebu overseer Roy Cimatu, Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia, IATF officials and Cebu City Health Department head Dr. Daisy Villa.

“We still have to meet for the specific guidelines. Of course, the very basic protocol remains that generally people are asked to stay home and only those with exemptions are allowed to go out.”

Village officials and the police will be in charge of the distribution process of new passes.

The suspension of passes resulted in residents of 80 barangays complaining about food provisions. Labella assured Cebu City has P500 million for relief operations of its more than 1.1 million population.

“My challenge to the barangay captains is to aspire that goal to lower the confirmed cases here,” Cimatu said. “The cases should stop increasing in the next few days.”

As of 21 June, Cebu City has 4,412 confirmed cases, 2,237 of which are active ones.

Source: <https://tribune.net.ph/index.php/2020/06/25/cebu-quarantine-passes-under-strict-monitoring/>

Hard lockdown starts in Cebu City

DILG cancels 250,000 quarantine passes; cops, soldiers man checkpoints

By: [Nestle Semilla](#) - Reporter / [@nestleCDN](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:02 AM June 25, 2020



INSPECTION Policemen guarding checkpoints set up around Cebu City stop motorists to inspect their documents and inquire about the purpose of their travel as the government restricts movement of residents due to the rising coronavirus infections in the city. — JOWENCE NIÑA MENDOZA

CEBU CITY, Cebu, Philippines —A mother in her 50s pleaded with a policeman on Wednesday to allow her to cross the street and buy food and medicines for her three children.

The cop reprimanded her for leaving her village of Sambag I, a prohibited act after Interior Secretary Eduardo Año canceled all quarantine passes issued in the city effective 10 p.m. on Tuesday. Although the market and several drug stores were located just across the street, the area belongs to another village, Pahina Central.

The strict lockdown was imposed to contain the rising number of coronavirus infections in Cebu City. On Monday night, President Rodrigo Duterte designated Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu, a former military chief, to oversee the government's efforts in fighting the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Cebu City and Cebu province.

At least 93 checkpoints have been set up to ensure that people would stay within their villages. Thirteen of these are guarded by policemen in fatigue uniforms along the main roads and 80 manned by "tanod" (village watchmen) and volunteers in interior roads in each of the 80 barangays in the city.

'Aerial monitoring'

On Wednesday, military vehicles were seen in Cebu City while two military helicopters dropped leaflets containing the government's reminders on how to stop the spread of COVID-19. The choppers also conducted "aerial monitoring" of the situation in the city, said Police Col. Cydric Earl Tamayo, officer in charge of the Cebu City police.

Año ordered the cancellation of 250,000 quarantine passes after sensing that several people were on the streets despite the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) status.

"ECQ is a form of hard lockdown so people need to stay inside their homes," he said.

Military help

People, who want to buy food, can only go out within their villages. Exempted were health-care workers, call center agents and bank employees.

As of 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Cebu City recorded 4,479 COVID-19 cases, 89 deaths and 2,177 recoveries.

In Manila, presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said Cimatu could ask the help of the military to impose quarantine restrictions in Cebu City.

“This is not martial law. This has been decided upon by the Supreme Court, and this is as far as enforcing the ECQ in Cebu is concerned. Normally, we have the police enforcing it, but if the police is not enough, then the Armed Forces can also enforce the lockdown,” Roque said in an interview over the ABS-CBN News Channel.

According to him, Cimatu’s actions are tantamount to being acts of the President.

Duterte, if needed, would issue an executive order to give legal validity to any actions taken by Cimatu, he said.

Roque backed the Department of the Interior and Local Government’s decision to withdraw quarantine passes issued to Cebu City residents, saying it was a “very good move.”

Abrupt

“I think the point being made is it’s just too many. It’s a quarter of the residents of the entire city that’s allowed to go out. That defeats the purpose, of course, of an ECQ,” he said. But several residents were caught off guard by the cancellation of their quarantine passes.

“The cancellation of quarantine passes was done abruptly. We were not able to prepare,” said 32-year-old Reggie Maratas, a resident of Barangay Tisa, who had to rush out early Wednesday to buy food and other supplies for his family.

Anxious shoppers formed long lines at grocery stores, clearing some shelves of essential items. Councilor Dave Tumalak said the national government should have presented clear guidelines about the cancellation of quarantine passes.

“I, too, was shocked when I learned about the development past midnight. People didn’t know how they would be able to buy food and other necessities,” he said in a radio interview. Tamayo appealed to residents to follow the rules. “What our policemen did was to first warn them. If they resist, then we have to arrest them,” he said.

Monitor Cebu City Jail

He said the police and military would focus on at least nine villages severely affected by COVID-19. These are Mambaling, Luz, Labangon, Suba, Kamputhaw, Tejero, Sambag II, Duljo Fatima and Basak San Nicolas.

They would also monitor Cebu City Jail, where inmates had been infected.

Mayor Edgardo Labella appealed to residents to remain calm and follow protocols.

“I know this is a difficult time for everyone. There will be difficult days ahead but let’s keep our eyes on our common goal which is to save our community from this pandemic,” he said in a video message posted on Facebook.

—With a report from *Leila B. Salaverria*



DENR compound in QC placed under lockdown

Published June 25, 2020, 4:27 PM

By Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) compound in Visayas Avenue, Quezon City has been placed under lockdown on Thursday, after two employees tested positive for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

According to DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, the two individuals are employees of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), an agency under the DENR.

The EMB Central Office building, along with other DENR bureaus and offices, is located in the DENR Office compound in Visayas Avenue.

"There's an immediate order coming from the secretary (Roy Cimatu) that we put the whole DENR compound on lockdown for immediate sanitation of the place," Antiporda said.

"As of now, we're still coordinating with the executive director of the EMB. The two staff are working in his office," he added.

Operations in the main office will be suspended to give way for the disinfection of the area, while the two personnel will be placed under quarantine.

Antiporda said sanitation of the compound will not take long.

"What's important is that the place should be immediately vacated, so the area can be sanitized, and we can immediately resume work," he added.

Cimatu orders DENR lockdown as 2 employees test positive for Covid

By [Red Mendoza](#)

June 25, 2020

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Roy Cimatu ordered a lockdown of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) central office in Quezon City after two of its employees tested positive for the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), an official said on Thursday.

Two employees from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environment Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) tested positive for the Coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), an official said on Thursday.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda told a virtual press briefing that the lockdown was an “immediate order” to sanitize the compound and implement “proper precautionary measures” due to the number of people going to the DENR.

The two employees are under quarantine and the department plans to do contact tracing.

Source: https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/06/25/news/latest-stories/cimatu-orders-denr-lockdown-as-2-employees-test-positive-for-covid/735143/?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR2fZWYYieu-upxqaHLsxOVqWnNAuGhEhMfb2nv-hqDShBUDy8PTN_mtd6o#Echobox=1593075449

2 DENR-EMB personnel contract COVID-19 — Antiporda

By: [Katrina Hallare](#) - Reporter / [@KHallareINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:01 AM June 25, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Two personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environment Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) have contracted the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda revealed Thursday.

Because of this, Antiporda said Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu has ordered that the entire DENR compound in Quezon City be placed on lockdown.

“There’s an immediate order coming from the secretary that we put the whole DENR compound on lockdown for immediate sanitation of the place,” Antiporda said in a Zoom meeting with reporters.

“As of now, we’re still coordinating with the executive director of the EMB. Sa office niya mismo yung dalawang staff (The two staff are working for him),” he added about the COVID-19 positive personnel.

Asked until when the DENR compound will be on lockdown, Antiporda answered: “Sandali lang, kasi ang importante ay maalis sila dun sa lugar, masanitize yung lugar, [tapos] trabaho ulit tayo.”

(It won’t be long, because what’s important is that the people be out of the place, then the place be sanitized, then we’ll go back to work.)

To date, the Philippines has [32,295 COVID-19 cases](#), with 8,656 recoveries and 1,204 fatalities.

/MUF



2 DENR-EMB personnel sapul sa COVID-19; Opisina sa QC, ila-lockdown

June 25, 2020 @ 12:06 PM 20 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Tinamaan ng coronavirus disease (COVID-19) ang dalawang tauhan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environment Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), ayon kay DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda nitong Huwebes.

Dahil dito, sinabi ni Antiporda na iniutos ni Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu ang pag-lockdown sa buong DENR compound sa Quezon City.

“There’s an immediate order coming from the secretary that we put the whole DENR compound on lockdown for immediate sanitation of the place,” ayon kay Antiporda sa isang Zoom meeting. **RNT/MM**

2 tauhan nahawa ng COVID-19, DENR compound ini-lockdown

Balita

By Leifbilly Begas June 25, 2020



COVID testing center

DALAWANG empleyado ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources ang nahawa ng coronavirus disease 2019.

Agad na isinailalim sa lockdown ang buong compound ng DENR na nasa Visayas Ave., Quezon City.

Ang mga nahawa ay pumapasok sa tanggapan ng Environment Management Bureau.

Inaasahan na agad na isa-sanitize ang buong compound subalit hindi pa malinaw kung hanggang kailan tatagal ang lockdown.

Inaasahan din ang pagsasagawa ng contact tracing upang matukoy kung sino ang mga posibleng nahawahan ng dalawa.

DENR compound on lockdown after 2 personnel test positive for COVID-19

Published June 25, 2020 11:48am

The entire central office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Quezon City will be placed under lockdown after two personnel tested positive for COVID-19.

DENR Undersecretary Benny Antiporda told reporters that the two personnel were part of the skeleton force of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

"Two positive cases of COVID in EMB Central Office. We will sanitize after that we will lift [the lockdown] ASAP," Antiporda said.

The compound of DENR Central Office will undergo sanitation, while personnel will undergo quarantine.

"Para lang masiguro natin," Antiporda said. —**Joviland Rita/KBK, GMA News**

Tanggapan ng DENR sa QC naka-lockdown matapos magpositibo ang 2 kawani sa COVID-19

ABS-CBN News

Posted at Jun 26 2020 12:24 AM

MAYNILA - Isinailalim sa lockdown ang tanggapan ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) sa Visayas Ave., Quezon City, Huwebes matapos magpositibo sa COVID-19 ang 2 kawani nito.

Ayon kay Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, taga-Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) ang 2 nagpositibo sa sakit. Magkakaroon ng sanitation at disinfection sa 4 na gusali ng DENR.

Nagsasagawa na ng contact tracing upang malaman ang mga nakasalamuha ng mga empleyado.

Samantala, natiketan naman dahil sa paglabag sa bus lane sa EDSA ang isang opisyal ng DENR Huwebes ng hapon.

Ayon kay Antiporda, nagmamadali si Undersecretary Ernesto Adobo Jr. dahil siya ang naatasang mag-lockdown sa tanggapan ng DENR bilang undersecretary for administration and finance, gayong nasa Cebu City si Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu upang tingnan ang sitwasyon doon. - **Ulat ni Arra Perez, ABS-CBN News**

 PTV ✓
18 hrs · 🌐

JUST IN: Department of Environment and Natural Resources Central Office has been placed under lockdown after two employees tested positive for COVID-19 virus. Disinfection and sanitation will be conducted.

DENR Usec. Benny Antiporda says, the two COVID-19 positive employees are part of the skeletal workforce of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Central Office. | via Clay Pardilla



Recording...

Benny Antiporda

👍 🤔 😲 Slowgun Flores and 174 others 28 Comments 27 Shares

Some government offices temporarily close for disinfection

By [CNN Philippines Staff](#)

Published Jun 25, 2020 2:55:20 PM



A couple of government offices were ordered closed for disinfection for possible and confirmed COVID-19 cases among employees. (FILE PHOTO)

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, June 25) — A couple of government offices were ordered closed for disinfection for possible and confirmed COVID-19 cases among employees.

Two of these are the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal and the entire Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) compound, both in Quezon City.

Tribunal chairperson and Supreme Court Associate Justice Marvic Leonen said Thursday he ordered the lockdown of the premises and quarantine of some personnel for 14 days due to a possible COVID-19 case.

"The person may have been infected after we did a staff wide rapid test a week ago," he said.

Environment Undersecretary Benny Antiporda, in a Zoom meeting with reporters on the same day, said Secretary Roy Cimatu ordered a lockdown for the entire DENR compound after two Environment Management Bureau employees tested positive.

He said the compound will be sanitized, but did not provide a date for reopening.

Meanwhile, Makati Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Elmo Alameda and Metropolitan Trial Court Executive Judge Jackie Saguisag also instructed to temporarily close all regional trial courts, metropolitan trial courts and Offices of the Clerk of Court because a court employee received a positive result from a rapid test.

The employee also has relatives who work in the Makati courts, the order stated.

LOOK: Endangered marine turtles released in
TITLE: Catanduanes

PAGE 1/ 1/2

June 26, 2020
DATE

LOOK: Endangered marine turtles released in Catanduanes

By: [Cathrine Gonzales](#) - Reporter / [@cgonzalesINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:20 AM June 25, 2020



Residents of Palumbanes Island's Barangay Toytoy in Caramoran, Catanduanes witness the release of 59 green sea turtle hatchlings on June 17, 2020. (Photo from DENR)

MANILA, Philippines — Fifty nine endangered green sea turtle hatchlings and a hawksbill sea turtle were recently released in the waters of Palumbanes Island in Caramoran, Catanduanes, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources said on Thursday.



Green sea turtle hatchling. (Photo from DENR)

The activity was witnessed and led residents and officials of Barangay Toytoy and personnel from the Catanduanes Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), Caramoran municipal government and Philippine National Police.

Meanwhile, the hawksbill sea turtle, classified as critically endangered, was released in the shore of Barangay Tubli in Caramoran.

LOOK: Endangered marine turtles released in
Catanduanes

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 26, 2020
DATE



Hawksbill sea turtle (Photo from DENR)

Both activities were held on June 17, a day after the observance of the World Sea Turtle Day.

DENR reviewing if suspended mining firms may

TITLE: resume operations soon

PAGE 1/ 1/2

June 26, 2020

DATE

DENR reviewing if suspended mining firms may resume operations soon

Willard Cheng, ABS-CBN News

Jun 25 2020 02:09 PM

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is currently reviewing and validating if suspended mining companies have complied with regulations to see if they may now resume operations and provide employment.

This is one of the measures the agency is taking to push for “green economic recovery” amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

Speaking in a virtual roundtable discussion, Environment Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna said the department is also already facilitating the declaration of “minahang bayan” in different provinces “where small scale miners will be allowed to operate legally and generate income while enabling the government to monitor and regulate their extractive activities.”

“For large scale mining companies, there are companies which have been suspended for quite a while and we are actually fast tracking already the review, the assessment and validation of these companies to determine if they are now compliant and will be eligible to resume operations to provide the much needed employment and revenue for both the national and local government,” Cuna said in the virtual roundtable discussion on the path to a green economic recovery post pandemic held by the Stratbase ADR Institute and Philippine Business For Environmental Stewardship (PBEST).

The DENR has also decided to adopt the “family approach modality” and depart from the usual practice of tapping people’s organizations in implementing activities under the National Greening Program.

Cuna said this would entail engaging local families where each family would be given a minimum of 5 hectares of forest land area to develop for a period of 5 years.

The agency expects around 60,000 families to benefit from seedling production, plantation establishment and first-year maintenance and production.

Each family will earn around P8,172 per month from seedling production, P3,633 from plantation establishment, and P1,033 from first-year maintenance and production.

Cuna said the projected income does reflect income per family that may be derived from cash crops, fruit trees, and other agricultural crops and livestock raised.

For harvesting of established plantations, 10,841 families are expected to benefit, with commodities including high-value crops, coffee, cacao, fruit trees, and bamboo.

To assist family beneficiaries in getting a reasonable price for their produce, they would be given assistance in market linkage and product development in coordination with other government agencies.

DENR reviewing if suspended mining firms may

June 26, 2020

TITLE: resume operations soon

PAGE 1/ 2/2

DATE

Cuna said the Forest Management Bureau is crafting guidelines for benefit sharing mechanisms and partnership with the private sector to ensure that plantations will be managed sustainably and partners will equitably get a share from benefits.

The DENR is also set to hire about 819 forest protection officers and 636 bantay gubat with a monthly salary of about P8,000 to 8,500 as part of efforts to intensify forest protection.

To manage health care infectious waste, the DENR is pushing for the establishment of more treatment, storage and disposal (TSD) facilities to treat hazardous waste and address concerns on hazardous waste management.

The DENR is stepping up the enforcement of existing laws and continuing wildlife protection programs, as well as proper wildlife handling protocols, and training more wildlife caretakers on health and safety measures.

The DENR is studying possible legislative actions, including the amendment of the ecological solid waste management act “to bridge the policy gap” between municipal waste management and health care waste management, the amendment of the wildlife act to strengthen mandatory quarantine protocols for confiscated animals and instituting greater penalties for poaching, trade and consumption of wild animals to prevent the spread of pathogens such as bacteria and viruses.

Dindo Manhit, president of Stratbase ADR Institute, called for a “whole of society approach” and spoke of the need to create jobs in the green sectors such as sanitation, energy, and tourism as part of a green economic recovery program. He said green investments and projects should also be encouraged.

Source: https://news-abs--cbn-com.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/news.abs-cbn.com/amp/news/06/25/20/denr-reviewing-if-suspended-mining-firms-may-resume-operations-soon?usqp=mq331AQFKAGwASA%3D&_js_v=0.1#referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&_tf=From%20%251%24s&_ampshare=https%3A%2F%2Fnews.abs-cbn.com%2Fnews%2F06%2F25%2F20%2Fdenr-reviewing-if-suspended-mining-firms-may-resume-operations-soon

Suspended mining firms' compliance up for review

posted June 25, 2020 at 10:50 pm

by [Rio N. Araja](#)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is now in the process of reviewing the compliance of suspended mining firms on corrective measures set by the government.

Undersecretary Juan Miguel Cuna said the suspended mines could allow resumption of operations if found compliant with the guidelines.

The measure is one of its interventions toward green economic recovery amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cuna said the DENR is now facilitating the declaration of "minahang bayan" in the provinces to allow small-scale miners to operate legally and earn an income as the government conducts close monitoring and regulation of their extractive activities.

As far as the large-scale mining firms are concerned, he said the agency is expediting its review, assessment and validation of their compliance to see if they could start operations and provide employment.



News5

9 hrs ·

Kasabay ng Arbor Day, hinikayat ni Caancan ang mga Pilipino na magtanim ng mga puno o magsimulang mag-urban gardening sa kanilang mga bakuran.



788

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Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2064274663729277&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0



News5

10 hrs ·

Nagtanim ng 20 native na puno ang ilang opisyal ng DENR sa compound ng National Ecology Center sa Quezon City kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng Arbor Day ngayon araw. 🌱

📍: DENR National Capital Region



👍❤️👏 142

19 Comments 5 Shares

Source:

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2064235923733151&id=163550757135020&fs=0&focus_composer=0

Stakeholders plant trees on Arbor Day in Kalinga

By Peter A. Balocnit Published on June 25, 2020

CITY OF TABUK, Kalinga, June 25 (PIA) - - The Provincial and Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (P/CENRO) spearheaded tree planting activities today in celebration of Arbor Day and National Environment Month.

Dr. Noel Barrientos, Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer, said the tree planting is also aimed to restore plantations under the National Greening Program and Integrated Natural Resources Management Project (INREMP) which were either burned, destroyed or incurred low survival rate.

The DENR personnel were joined by the 503rd Brigade of the Philippine Army, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection and their partner people's organizations (PO) in their simultaneous tree planting in three sites.

"Our personnel with the AFP and partner POs were assigned to plant at barangay Bulo, this city planting various forest tree species on NGP plantation areas," Barrientos said.

Tabuk CENRO Severino Dalutag said their staff together with the community and partner POs were assigned to plant at Sitio Ileb of barangay Nambaran on INREMP project areas.

Meanwhile, Pinukpuk CENRO Imelda Casiwan also informed that her group with the AFP, PNP, BFP and KAYO people's organization planted 550 seedlings (400 Gmelina and 150 cacao) at their NGP project site in Calbayan, Catabogan.

Arbor Day in the Philippines has been institutionalized to be observed every June 25 throughout the nation by planting trees and ornamental plants and other forms of relevant activities. (JDP/PAB-PIA CAR, Kalinga)



Bamboos to boost air quality in Iloilo City

By Perla Lena June 25, 2020, 3:15 pm



BAMBOOS FOR ILOILO CITY. A bamboo seedling is being planted along the floodway in Barangay Buhang, Jaro, Iloilo City on Thursday (June 25, 2020). The city government will plant 5,000 bamboos before the end of July to help boost air quality in the metropolis. *(Photos from Iloilo City Government)*

ILOILO CITY – Some 5,000 bamboos will be planted in three identified sites in this city before the end of July to help boost air quality in the metropolis.

In celebration of Environment Month and Arbor Day, an initial 300 Kiling bamboo species were planted along the floodway in Barangay Buhang, Jaro here Thursday, said Armando Dayrit, the city government's executive assistant for environment.

"This is just sort of (a) ceremonial activity. Along the floodway, we will plant 1,000 bamboo materials," Dayrit said in a phone interview.

The materials, he said, were sourced from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

"Mayor Jerry Treñas would like to have luxuriant growth around Iloilo City. That bamboo is one of his ideas because they look green and they will also promote ambient air," Dayrit said.

Bamboo is said to play a part in the balance of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

As early as January this year, he said, they already started to lobby for seedlings at the DENR.

Of the total seedlings committed by the department, 3,000 will be planted at the Calajunan Sanitary Landfill and 1,000 at the Esplanade at the back of the St. Paul's Hospital towards the old Residence Hotel.

Those that will be planted at the esplanade are the ornamental Chinese bamboo species while those at the floodway are the industrial Kiling species.

Dayrit said the DENR also committed to helping the city plant more bamboos.

Iloilo's bamboo products, which are brought to other places, only come from the municipality of Maasin.

"Only Maasin is producing it and Iloilo is already becoming a capital. What more if Iloilo City will produce more," he said.

The plan is to plant with bamboo all open spaces in the city, such as along creeks.

"We expect more. We will consider it in our next plan," Dayrit said, noting that they intend to clone the bamboos once all 5,000 bamboos are fully-grown.

Thursday's bamboo planting activity was a partnership between the city government of Iloilo and DENR 6 (Western Visayas). **(PNA)**

Source: <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1106975>

Iloilo to grow 1.5-M native, fruit-bearing trees

By Gail Momblan June 25, 2020, 4:15 pm



“TANUM ILOILO”. Iloilo Governor Arthur Defensor Jr. on Thursday (June 25, 2020) leads the launch of “Tanum Iloilo” (Plant Iloilo) program through a symbolic planting of Iloilo tree (*Aglaia argentea*) seedling. The province eyes to plant 1.5 million native and fruit-bearing trees in September. (PNA photo by Gail Momblan)

ILOILO CITY -- Iloilo Province's environmental programs continue in the wake of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) crisis with Thursday's launch of “Tanum Iloilo” (Plant Iloilo) program that aims to grow 1.5 million native and fruit-bearing trees this year.

The program initiated by the provincial government through the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) was conceptualized for the conservation, protection, and preservation of the environment to combat the adverse effects of climate change.

Iloilo Governor Arthur Defensor Jr. led the program launching at the Western Visayas Regional Museum that was virtually participated by the 43 local government units (LGUs) in the province.

Defensor said the launch was done in time for the Arbor Day celebration, as the tree-planting proper will be done in September during the province's annual “Pista sa Kakahuyan”.

He said health measures will be practiced during the “new normal” tree planting activity as safe physical distancing will be observed.

The governor pushed for native or endemic trees and fruit trees to be grown in the province.

Duhat (Java plum) and caimito (star apple), for instance, can be planted and nourished properly for the province to preserve their kind.

“We will put them in a place where they can have a bigger chance to develop. We need to sustain the trees that had been growing in our country ever since,” he said.

During the launch, the governor has turned over the Iloilo tree (*Aglaia argentea*) seedlings to partner agencies like the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); of Education (DepEd); and of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), among others.

Last June 10, the province acquired 100 Iloilo tree seedlings from the province of Capiz through Governor Esteban Contreras.

Defensor said the 100 Iloilo tree seedlings were distributed to the province's LGUs.

Iloilo tree is native in the province while it also grows in the forests of Jamindan, Capiz.

It is unique because it is the only tree named after a place, Lawyer Arturo Cangrejo, Iloilo PENRO head, said in an interview.

Cangrejo said the LGUs have planted their Iloilo tree seedlings on Thursday, while they will also participate in the bigger tree-planting activity in September.

He likewise reminded the 1, 721 villages in the province to prepare 1,000 seedlings each for the September activity.

The partner agencies will also do the same preparations.

Recommended species for "Tanum Iloilo" are native trees like Narra, Molave, Ilang-Ilang, Banaba, Toog, among others; and fruit-bearing trees like Santol, Pomelo, Lansones, Sampalok, Chico, among others.

The province has five satellite nurseries located in Guimbal, Alimodian, Calinog, Dingle, and Ajuy. It also takes care of one central nursery at Daja, Maasin. **(PNA)**

DENR-Region 2 TARGETS 2M vegetable seedlings

By [Leander C. Domingo, TMT](#)

June 26, 2020

TUGUEGARAO CITY: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Region 2 has collaborated, through a memorandum of agreement, with the provincial government of Cagayan, for a massive production of two million vegetable seedlings. The partnership seeks to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and ensure food security.

38 hawksbill sea turtle hatchlings released in Zambo

TITLE: Norte

PAGE 1/ 1/2

June 26, 2020

DATE

38 hawksbill sea turtle hatchlings released in Zambo Norte

By [FRENCIE CARREON](#)

-JUNE 23, 2020 9:53 PM

ZAMBOANGA CITY (MindaNews / 23 June) – Thirty-eight hawksbill sea turtle hatchlings were released last Saturday at the shoreline of Alegria, a coastal barangay in Baliguian town, Zamboanga del Norte.



The hawksbill sea turtle hatchlings just before they were released to the sea in Baliguian, Zamboanga del Norte on Saturday (20 June 2020). Photo courtesy of CENRO-Siocon

The Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) team of Siocon Conservation and Development Section (CDS) personnel, Alegria Barangay Chairman Ma. Cecilia Asani and fisherman Amad Maguindan released the hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) hatchlings at Alegria's shoreline last June 20.

Maguindan earlier detected the hatchlings at an identified nesting site previously fenced and secured by CENRO Siocon on May 6 this year to protect it from scavengers and stray animals.

The fisherman reported his discovery to Asani, who immediately relayed the information to CENRO Siocon. Upon arrival at the area, the CENRO Siocon CDS Team discovered the healthy hatchlings and immediately released them to the sea.

Hawksbill sea turtles are classified as "critically endangered" by the International Union of the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). A study shows a crisis category that such species, among other things, are characterized by having sustained an observed, estimated, inferred or suspected reduction of at least 80 percent over the last 10 years or three generations.

An adult hawksbill sea turtle, according to National Geographic, may grow as much as 24 to 45 inches in shell length, weighing 100 to 150 pounds, and has a lifespan of 30 to 50 years.

38 hawksbill sea turtle hatchlings released in Zambo

TITLE: Norte

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 26, 2020

DATE



The hawksbill sea turtle hatchlings on their way to the sea in Baliguian, Zamboanga del Norte after they were released on Saturday (20 June 2020). Photo courtesy of CENRO Siocon

Hawksbill turtles are protected by international agreements like the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Migratory Species.

In line with the continuing implementation of the 10 Priority Programs of Environment Secretary Roy A. Cimatu, specifically under enhanced biodiversity conservation and scaling up of coastal and marine ecosystems, CENRO Siocon intensifies the conduct of information, education and communication (IEC) campaign in coastal communities to mobilize them to help protect and conserve the environment.
(Frenchie Carreon / MindaNews)

Source: <https://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2020/06/38-hawksbill-sea-turtle-hatchlings-released-in-zambo-norte/?fbclid=IwAR1GktUm0snGipauzv15qmKqEbCOIZuLcEkreEBZlocYTpCLdPuXDfW1yBM>

Cutting of 54 pine trees in Baguio, big blow to re-greening plan

By Liza Agoot and Pigeon Lobien June 25, 2020, 6:15 pm



MEETING. Officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the Cordillera meet with Mayor Benjamin Magalong on the reported permit issued to a private corporation where 54 trees will be cut. Some have been felled when the residents saw the tarpaulin outside the property on Wednesday. *(Photo courtesy of Neil Clark Ongchango/ PIO)*

BAGUIO CITY – Mayor Benjamin Magalong on Thursday said the cutting of 54 pine trees in Outlook Drive village here is a big blow to the city's re-greening master plan.

"We are saddened because we feel it is a big blow to our Re-greening Master Plan amid our request to the Office of the President for a tree-cutting moratorium," he said in a statement.

He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) issued Permit No. SPLTP No. CAR-58-2020 on May 4, 2020 to Vista Residences Inc. for cutting of 53 Benguet pine and a Norfolk pine at Purok 3 Outlook Drive.

The tree cutting will pave the way for a building construction project.

"While the proposed moratorium has been taken over by this health crisis, we need to follow this up to ensure that our remaining trees will be preserved," Magalong said.

DENR-CAR records showed that the property owner applied for a special private land timber permit in 2018.

It went through the lengthy process and complied with all the requirements including the Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC), barangay certificate, and mayor's clearance which can only be issued after ample investigations and public consultations.

The ECC was issued in 2017, barangay clearance on Sept. 11, 2018 and mayor's clearance on Oct. 1, 2018.

Records showed that the company was required to redesign the original plan to reduce the number of trees to be affected.

The owner also complied with the compensatory requirement of 100 tree seedlings to each tree felled.

In a meeting with the DENR-CAR executives led by regional executive director Ralph Pablo and the property owner on Thursday, Magalong asked the owner represented by Ferdinand Salcedo to double the replacement to 200 per downed tree to which the representative agreed. **(PNA)**

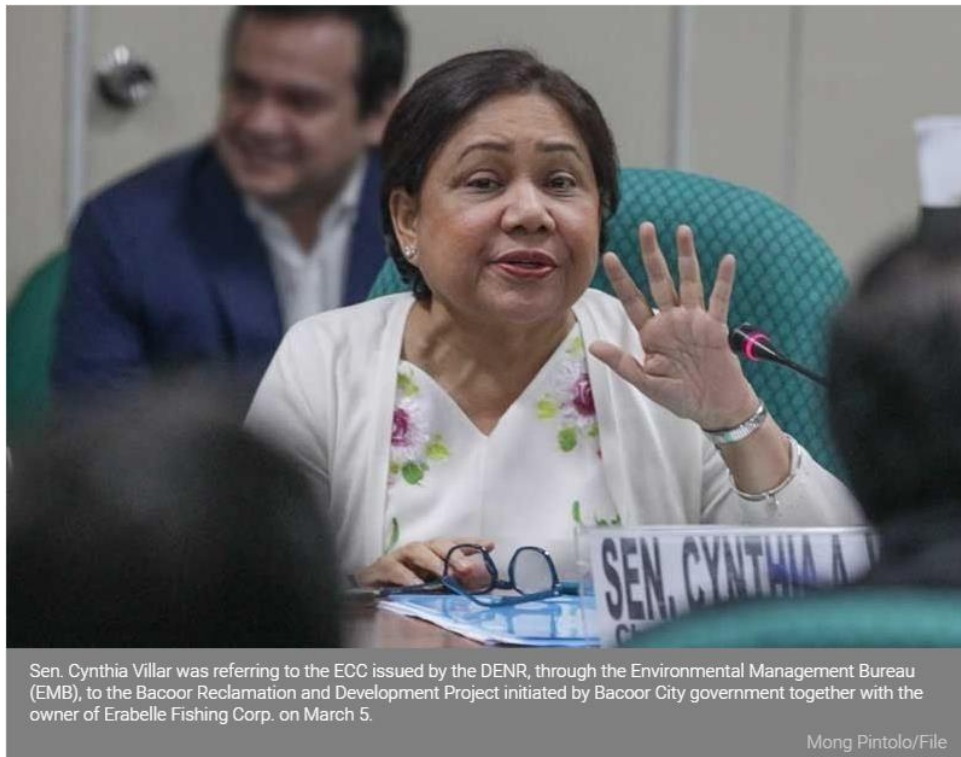
Villar seeks recall of Cavite reclamation project's

June 26, 2020

TITLE: permit

PAGE 1/ 1/2

DATE



Sen. Cynthia Villar was referring to the ECC issued by the DENR, through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), to the Bacoor Reclamation and Development Project initiated by Bacoor City government together with the owner of Erabelle Fishing Corp. on March 5.

Mong Pintolo/File

Villar seeks recall of Cavite reclamation project's permit

[Paolo Romero](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 25, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Cynthia Villar asked yesterday the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to recall the environment compliance certificate (ECC) issued to the 320-hectare Bacoor reclamation project in Cavite, warning that it would destroy protected areas and trigger flooding in communities around Manila Bay.

Villar was referring to the ECC issued by the DENR, through the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), to the Bacoor Reclamation and Development Project initiated by Bacoor City government together with the owner of Erabelle Fishing Corp. on March 5.

ECC-CO-1909-0023 was signed by EMB officer-in-charge William Cunado, who gave the go-signal to start dredging, filling the project area with reclamation materials and construction of road networks and drainage system in Manila Bay, off Bacoor City in Cavite.

Villar, who chairs the Senate committee on environment, said the project threatens to destroy protected areas and trigger massive flooding in communities surrounding Manila Bay.

“The reclamation project will potentially cause irreparable damage to the Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park. The project will be building on the buffer zone of this protected area and will destroy the landscape in which the wetland now thrives,” Villar said.

Under Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act (E-NIPAS Act), the 175-hectare Las Piñas-Parañaque Wetland Park is a declared protected area.

It is also one of seven areas in the Philippines listed as a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention because of its critical role in the survival of threatened, restricted-range and congregatory bird species.

She also cited the warning of the Department of Public Works and Highways that reclaiming Manila Bay would cause flooding as high as eight meters in Las Piñas City and other cities around the bay.

She said P1.47 billion worth of flood-control projects in the cities of Bacoor and Imus will be wasted if the reclamation project is implemented.

Flooding was one of the grounds cited by Villar along with 315,000 residents of Las Piñas, Parañaque and Cavite, when they petitioned for a Writ of Kalikasan against the planned reclamation of Manila Bay in 2012.

In 2017, the DENR cancelled the ECC issued to Alltech Contractors Inc. for the Parañaque-Las Piñas Coastal Bay Project Land Reclamation due to its potential to harm the environment.

She also said the Bacoor reclamation project contradicts the P1.3-billion Manila Bay Rehabilitation project implemented to clean up, rehabilitate and preserve the coastal and marine ecosystem of the bay.

“If we allow reclamation to proceed in Manila Bay, what happens now to our rehabilitation efforts? Our government has already poured precious resources into this campaign and many have sacrificed to comply. Are we now losing the battle for Manila Bay?” Villar said.

On Jan. 27, 2019, the “Battle for Manila Bay” was launched to reinforce the Supreme Court continuing mandamus issued in December 2008, which directs 13 agencies and private entities to clean up, rehabilitate, preserve, restore and maintain the waters of Manila Bay to a level fit for swimming, skin-diving and other forms of contact recreation.

Also on the basis of the continuing mandamus, President Duterte signed Administrative Order No. 16 creating the Manila Bay Task Force on Feb. 19, 2019.

Prioritize waste management---Villar

posted June 25, 2020 at 11:30 pm

by [Macon Ramos-Araneta](#)

Waste management should not take a backseat during the pandemic but instead be prioritized to prevent the spread of diseases, said. Senator Cynthia Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

“We all know that a clean environment is a healthy environment. Improperly disposed wastes can cause infection and contamination. So, we should take proper waste disposal and management even more seriously,” she said.

The World Health Organization said if solid waste is not dealt with quickly, serious health risks will develop which will further demoralize the community already traumatized by the emergency.

Villar also cited an advisory from the International Solid Waste Association, which said that “Waste Management is one of the most important sanitary barriers to prevent dissemination of illnesses and diseases.”

Villar noted that recycling of recyclable wastes can also help manage the amount of wastes accumulated even during community quarantine. She said experts themselves cite that continuity of recycling efforts is important during and after the pandemic.

“Proper waste management becomes even more crucial now during quarantine or lockdown because some waste collection services are discontinued or disrupted. But the amount of wastes produced continues to increase,” cited Villar, who has established 3,000 livelihood projects nationwide, which help process solid wastes by using them as raw materials.

These are water hyacinths for the waterlily handicraft-weaving enterprise and the handmade paper factory; waste coconut husks for the coconet-weaving enterprise and the charcoal-making factory; kitchen and garden wastes for the organic fertilizer composting facility; and plastic wastes for the waste plastic recycling factory that produces school chairs.

The coconet weaving enterprises turn waste coconut husks into coconets, organic fertilizers and charcoal briquettes out of them. The workers using a decorticating machine can extract fiber and coco peat from the husks which are used for making coconet. The coco dusts are mixed with household wastes to make organic fertilizers that are distributed for free to farmers and urban gardeners. A decorticating machine can extract fiber and dust from up to 8,000 waste coconut husks daily.

Villar also facilitated the establishment of composting centers in barangays to collect kitchen and garden wastes in the households to be brought to the composting facility. It now has 80 composters utilized by 80,000 households.

She also addressed the worsening problem of plastic pollution by recycling plastic wastes. The Philippines, based on a University of Georgia study, ranked third, next to China and Indonesia (among 192 countries surveyed), in terms of volume of plastic wastes produced by the population.

The senator, through Villar SIPAG, put up a Waste Plastic Recycling Factory in 2013 in Barangay Ilaya, Las Pinas City. It converts waste plastics into chairs, which is the solution to another perennial problem—lack of school chairs. One school chair can be produced out of 20 kilos of waste plastics such as sachets and wrappers. Since 2013, the Las Pinas factory has produced over 30,000 chairs. Two more plastic factories are built in San Miguel, Iloilo and Cagayan De Oro City to cover the Visayas and Mindanao regions.



SUMISIRIT SA TAAS NG SINGIL SA TUBIG

June 25, 2020 @ 11:12 AM 21 hours ago

Binabaha ng reklamo ang Manila Water Company, Inc. (MWC) mula sa mga customer nitong naghihimutok sa mataas na singil sa konsumo nila ng tubig.

Nagsimula ang problema nang natanggap ng ilang consumer ang kanilang water bill ngayong buwan, na sumisingil ng halos doble — o higit pa — ng karaniwan nilang binabayaran kada buwan.

Ang bill ay para sa tatlong buwang konsumo sa panahon ng Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ).

Nauna nang nagbabala ang MWC na malaki ang sisingilin sa susunod na bill ng mga consumer dahil sa tag-init at sa maya't mayang "disinfection" sa mga bahay laban sa COVID-19.

Pero kontra rito ang maraming customer ng MWC.

Idinaan nila sa Facebook comment ang kanilang gulat at pagkadismaya.

Mababasa sa page ng MWC ang komento ni Hana Desah: "...Sa sobrang tamad n'yo na mag-reading, huhulaan n'yo na lang? Never umabot ng 1k bill namin kahit nu'ng pito pa kami rito sa bahay! Partida, 'di pa ko araw-araw naliligo n'yan!!!!"

Sabi naman ni Lyn Laserna: "Aba eh doble singil sa 'kin, eh. April bill ko – P550+ lang. Aba pagdating ng May bill – P1,000 na.

"Aba eh may cancer na ako, makikipagtalo pa ba ako, dahil lang sa tubig? Gusto ko pang mabuhay.

"Ako kahit LOCKDOWN, monthly nagbabayad ako. Hinihingi ko sa kabila ang bill ko, tapos send nila thru email. Ayaw ko kasing magulat sa bayarin ko, kung magpatong-patong. Aba eh nagulat pa rin ako."

Heto naman ang nakagugulantang na kuwento ni Bing Asuncion Arevalo: "Ako po, April 480 po. May 2502.52. Paano ko po mababayaran 'yan, saan po nila nakuha 'yan kalaki...?"

Huwag na tayong lumayo pa.

Ako mismo ay may parehong problema.

Simula noong Pebrero 2019 hanggang Pebrero 2020, ang buwanang konsumo namin sa tubig ay nasa 34 cubic meters (cm) na nagkakahalaga ng P831.99, hanggang 40 cm na aabot sa P1,047.42.

Pero nitong Marso 2020, sinisingil ako ng MWC ng P154.85 sa pagkonsumo lang ng 3 cubic meters.

Ang billing period ay simula Pebrero 2 hanggang Marso 2, noon hindi pa quarantine period.

Bah! Tama ba ang basa n'yo sa metro ko?

Talaga lang, Manila Water?

Ibig n'yo bang sabihin, wala man lang kahit isa sa amin sa bahay na naligo sa buong isang buwang iyon?

Hanggang sa dumating na ang pinag-isang bill para sa Abril, Mayo, at Hunyo, na sinisingil ako ng P1,748.42 (55 cm) para sa Abril, P1,643.98 (53 cm) sa Mayo, at 1,782.94 (56 cm) ngayong Hunyo.

An'yare, Manila Water?

Halos doble talaga ng binabayaran ko buwan-buwan?!

Sa pagkakataong ito, pinalalabas n'yo naman na mayroon akong laundry o car wash service sa aking bakuran?

Walang epekto ang tag-init sa aking bill kung ikukumpara ito sa konsumo namin simula Abril hanggang Hunyo noong nakaraang taon: Abril 2019, P1,047.42 (40 cm); Mayo 2019, P867.17 (35 cm); at Hunyo 2019, P972.71 (38 cm).

Hunyo nang magbigay ang MWC sa lahat ng consumers ng 10-cm rebate dahil sa kawalan ng supply ng tubig.

* * *

May hindi tama rito.

Natatandaan n'yo ba nang kastiguhin ni Pangulong Duterte ang mga water service providers?

Sinabi niya noon na "kumukubra" ang mga ito ng pera mula sa kanilang mga customer simula noong 1997, nang unang pirmahan ang mga kontrata, na bigo namang magbigay ng sapat na supply ng tubig.

"You guys have been collecting money since (1997) to build a something... and you have not even come up with a can of clean water or a canal there," sabi ni Duterte. "So, where is the money? Where is the money of the Filipino people?"

Naaalala n'yo rin ba noong Enero, nang sisihin sila ng Presidente sa matinding polusyon sa Manila Bay, dahil sa kawalan nila ng maayos na sewerage treatment plants?

Sa Manila Water: Huwag n'yo na sanang hintayin na pagbantaan na naman kayo ng Presidente ng pag-takeover sa water distribution service.

Dapat na aksiyunan agad-agad ng Public Assessment of Water Service (PAWS) ng MWSS Regulatory Office ang santambak na reklamong ito.

* * *

SHORT BURSTS. Para sa mga komento o reaksiyon, mag-email sa firingline@ymail.com o mag-tweet sa @Side_View.

Source: <https://remate.ph/sumisirit-sa-taas-ng-singil-sa-tubig/>

Tourists still staying away from Boracay

By: [Nestor P. Burgos Jr.](#) - Correspondent / [@nestorburgosINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:04 AM June 25, 2020



BORACAY DINING Boracay Island has been opened to visitors from Western Visayas region but restaurants, hotels and other establishments allowed to operate have imposed health protocols, like wearing of face masks and observing physical distancing, to ensure that the spread of COVID-19 will be contained. —JACK JARILLA/CONTRIBUTOR\

ILOILO CITY, Iloilo, Philippines — Tourists are arriving on Boracay Island in trickles after government agencies confirmed that a recent visitor, who was part of a group of Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) personnel, tested positive for the new coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

More than a week after 28 BFP personnel in Western Visayas had been relieved, the agency had not submitted a report, including the itinerary of the infected employee, to the local government of Malay in Aklan province, said Madel Joy Tayco, spokesperson for the town's interagency task force on COVID-19.

From June 16, when the island reopened to tourists from the region, until June 22, only 48 tourists visited the island. The biggest single-day arrival was recorded on June 20 with 19 tourists, while the lowest was on June 17 with two, records from the Malay tourism office showed. Tourist arrivals on the island before the pandemic range from 3,000 to 5,000 daily.

Afraid

Acting Malay Mayor Frolibar Bautista, in an earlier interview, said tourists were still afraid to travel due to the pandemic, but many who were planning to go to Boracay called off their plans after reports came out that a COVID-19-infected BFP employee was on the island from June 12 to June 14.

The Malay municipal council wants criminal and administrative charges filed against the BFP employee.

In a resolution approved last week, the council also denounced the BFP employee's "selfish" and "irresponsible act" in disregarding local quarantine protocols.

It urged Bautista, the Civil Service Commission and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to file charges against the BFP employee. Residents and officials of Boracay and Malay have decried the violation of protocols, saying this spoiled the reopening of the island to tourists from Western Visayas.

Party

Last week, the DILG relieved 28 BFP officials and personnel, including Fire Senior Supt. Roderick Aguto, Western Visayas fire marshal, for the breach.

A team from the BFP central office is looking into reports that the employees held a party on the island while purportedly attending a conference, and is determining their liabilities.

The legal department of the Iloilo City government is also preparing complaints to be filed in the Office of the Ombudsman or in the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, according to its mayor, Jerry Treñas.

As of Sunday, 164 of the 196 BFP Western Visayas personnel placed under quarantine in Iloilo had tested negative for the disease.

In Malay, 55 people who had close contact with or were exposed to the infected BFP employee had been quarantined and tested. They included five BFP personnel; 27 hotel staff of Hue Hotel and Resorts Boracay, where the group stayed; and 14 passengers and nine crew members of a boat that transported the infected person to the island.

In a statement sent to the Inquirer, Hue Hotel and Resorts Boracay said it received the notices from the Department of Tourism (DOT) Western Visayas on the cancellation of its certificate of authority to operate and DOT accreditation.

“We are prepared to fully cooperate with their investigation. We trust that it will bring to light the surrounding circumstances that led to the occurrence of this incident,” according to the statement released by Ryan Pangilinan, corporate director of sales and marketing of Hospitality Innovators Inc., which manages and operates the establishment.

Rehabilitation and its benefits

[ROSES AND THORNS](#) - [Pia Roces Morato](#) (The Philippine Star) - June 26, 2020 - 12:00am

Political will has proven that when things need to get cleaned up, it can be done. Such was the case of Boracay and the administration's efforts to transform it into what it was once upon a time.

When I look back at my childhood days, I will always remember the times when my family and I spent summer vacations in places that today look so far from what it used to be. This truly saddens me as it is a real reflection of our love for country.

Many, or if not, most of us, are still frantic about the new norm. Things are indeed changing and the way we go about our daily routine will never be the same until such time we find a solution to this pandemic.

I can't help but reflect however on the good changes which have been as a result, ironic as it may be, a positive outcome in trying times. We've seen clearer skies, better hygiene practices, less garbage and to a certain extent, a "slow down" that is helping all of us appreciate quality of life.

I have asked friends in provinces what it is like for them in this new normal and many of them have told me that they have never seen their provinces cleaner just as they remember it to be in their childhood.

People are shifting interests and are getting more involved in agriculture, and awareness on clean and healthy environment is pushing many to become more active in preserving our natural resources.

People seem to be going back to the good old days where life was so much simpler and inclusivity is becoming more apparent. Hearing such stories is so refreshing and it helps us refocus our energies into better development. I speak of development in the midst of crisis as this is certainly the next step.

We need to find solutions to fuel our economy and consider going back to basics just like the days of our childhood.

While technology plays a big role and much of our activities are happening online, it is also very important to look back to our foundations at a stage wherein rebuilding will force us to be more creative and take better initiative.

Just like everyone else, I am still in discovery mode, but stories of simplicity and relearning the basics is a new venture for almost everyone. There is a silver lining after all in times of hardship – at most this is my thinking. Although we seem to be weening ourselves from our "former lives," I would like to think that a clean up is necessary in forging forward and beating the threats which have confronted us in the past few months.

It's time to reboot and sometimes, and I must admit, it can cause us to get anxious, but since many of us are forced to slow down, it's time that we use this to our advantage and pick up from a time that was interrupted by speed.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2020/06/26/2023582/rehabilitation-and-its-benefits>

Dredger that ran aground in Zambales owned by Filipino firm

Published June 25, 2020 11:32pm

The dredger which ran aground in Botolan, Zambales last week due to bad weather is owned by a Filipino firm, even as its crew were Chinese nationals.

According to Emil Sumangil's report on "24 Oras," Z2K Resources Incorporated said the company will also soon hire Filipinos.

"It will be manned by all Filipinos. As of now, they have to transfer the technology to us, we call it shadowing, magsasabay-sabay. Gagawin niya, matututo 'yung Filipino, and then later on aalisin na namin," Pierre Gonzales, the company engineer, said.

The dredger has been pulled back to its original position at the Bucao river where it resides with two aggregates carriers or ships which carry sand.

The dredging company was also given permission by the national government to dig at the Bucao River under the River Restoration Project.

"We will dredge that river, mababalik 'yan sa dating ganda, sigla nu'ng Bucao River without cost to the government," Gonzales said.

"Yung lahat ng tintawag nating sand, supposedly basura na sa atin, we would be selling it, meron tayong taxes. babayaran ng government," he added.

Z2K said the sand are brought to Hong Kong and Singapore. It also clarified that it is paying the government.

"We will be paying the government per shipload, [an] average of P1.6 million. On top of that meron pa kaming mga bayad sa PPA, all other port charges," Gonzales said.

"So every shipload, kikita ang government. Part of it will go to the barangay, part of it will go to the province, and to the national government," he added.

The company also denied that they were mining black sand.

"Hindi siya blacksand, its white sand. At saka dito, wala namang black sand, eh, that's one. Second, hindi pa kami nag uumpisa. Dinala namin 'yung marine assets to positioning," he said.

The residents previously [complained](#) about the dredging operations due to its negative effects on their livelihood. —**Joahna Lei Casilao/LDF, GMA News**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/regions/744246/dredger-that-ran-aground-in-zambales-owned-by-filipino-firm/story/>

With safety measures, reusable bags, containers can
still be used during the pandemic - experts

PAGE 1/ 1/2

June 26, 2020
DATE

With safety measures, reusable bags, containers can still be used during the pandemic — experts

Published June 25, 2020, 3:52 PM

By *Ellalyn De Vera-Ruiz*

As a surge in single-use plastic from food deliveries and online shopping has become evident during the community quarantine, a health specialist on Thursday appealed to all sectors to make a concerted effort to provide solutions to the waste disposal problems in the country.



(PIXABAY / MANILA BULLETIN)

A recent joint statement by 115 scientists from 18 countries cited the safe use of reusable bags, containers, and refill systems amid fears of virus transmission.

According to the scientists, reusable and refill systems can still be used safely if basic and stringent hygiene practices are followed.

Dr. Geminn Apostol, one of the signatories to the said statement and Lead Environmental Health Specialist at the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health, explained that reusables offer more sustainable packaging solutions and are easier to clean with soap and water or even with common approved household disinfectants.

"Single-use plastics are not inherently safer than reusables, and not only do they contribute to environmental pollution, they have also been found to cause additional public health concerns once they are discarded," Apostol added.

However, he said observing physical distancing and limiting outdoor activities remain to be the most cost-effective measure to avoid transmission of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Apostol urged all sectors to address the problem in waste management by advocating for "evidence-based and well-enforced waste management policies and practices."

While there are safe disposal solutions to COVID-19 related waste, such as medical waste autoclaves, the environmental advocates and health experts said the best way to ensure personal and environmental health is the rational use of PPEs and a shift to reusables.

"We welcome this very timely statement made by the global scientific community. Plastic pollution should not be a part of our efforts towards a #BetterNormal future. Unless we turn off the tap and regulate production, plastic will continue to contaminate our food supply and impact our ecosystems," said Rie Panaligan of the #BreakFreeFromPlastic (BFFP) Philippines.



TITLE: With safety measures, reusable bags, containers can
still be used during the pandemic - experts

“Let us not allow chemical and plastic industries to capitalize on the COVID-19 crisis and continue their business-as-usual operations. It is time for nations to hold them accountable for the plastic pollution crisis,” he also said.

According to the BFFP, the experts’ joint statement also builds on the movement’s #JustRecovery principles because it also highlights the need to take a holistic approach to shifting to reusables, such as employing contactless systems and ensuring employee and worker safety and health.

PRRD to advance PH interests at 36th Asean Summit

By Kris Crismundo June 25, 2020, 4:31 pm



MANILA – President Rodrigo Duterte will be involved in all the activities of the 36th Asean Summit on June 26 that will be conducted through a video conference, said Chief of Presidential Protocol and Presidential Assistant on Foreign Affairs Robert Borje.

“This is the first Asean summit to be convened via video conference in view of the constraints posed by Covid-19, (coronavirus disease 2019)” Borje said in a Palace briefing Thursday.

He added the discussions of Asean leaders on Friday will be built on an agreement adopted during the Special Asean Summit last April, thinking on ways how the region will facilitate the transition to the new normal and the post-pandemic recovery.

Borje said 10 outcome documents are expected to materialize during the summit.

He added issues on the South China Sea and maritime security will be discussed as part of the general discussion point in the summit, falling under the talks on international and regional developments.

“The President has been very consistent in his participation at Asean summits. All the important positions, the national interests of the Philippines in Asean, are being advanced by the President, including the issue on the South China Sea and migrant workers affairs,” Borje said.

The 10 Asean leaders will also discuss enhancing their cooperation, along with its dialogue partners to maintain peace, security, and order not only in the region but globally.

Economic recovery is also on the agenda of the leaders as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is eyed to be concluded by end-2020.

Asean initiated RCEP in 2012, pursuing a trade deal with its free trade agreement partners Australia, New Zealand, China, South Korea, Japan, and India.

However, India has backed out from the deal at the last Asean Summit in November 2019.

Vietnam is this year’s host of Asean Summit and Related Meetings.

Asean member states include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Earlier, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said Duterte will be attending at least six online Asean-related activities.

These activities include the 36th Asean Summit; Asean Leaders Special Session on Women's Empowerment; Asean Leaders Interface with the Representatives of Asean Inter-Parliamentary Assembly; Asean Leaders Interface with Representatives of Asean Youth; Asean Leaders Interface with Representatives of Asean Business Advisory Council; and a press conference of Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, chairman of the 36th Asean Summit.

The summit is expected to adopt more than 10 outcome documents on key areas of cooperation, such as food security and supply chain connectivity in the context of pandemic response, countering radicalization and violent extremism, and human resource development, among others, he added. ***(With reports from Azer Parrocha/PNA)***



Ayon kay Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año, kailangan pa muna nilang pag-aralang mabuti ang mga datos bago magdesisyon hinggil dito.

Miguel de Guzman, file

Estado ng community quarantine sa Metro Manila, maaga pa para matukoy -- DILG

[Mer Layson](#) (Pilipino Star Ngayon) - June 26, 2020 - 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Masyado pa umanong maaga sa ngayon para matukoy ang magiging estado ng community quarantine sa Metro Manila matapos ang Hunyo 30.

Ayon kay Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año, kailangan pa muna nilang pag-aralang mabuti ang mga datos bago magdesisyon hinggil dito.

Ilan sa mga opsiyon na maaaring maganap ay ang pananatili ng Metro Manila sa general community quarantine (GCQ), maibalik sa mas mahigpit na modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) o di kaya ay maibaba sa mas maluwag na modified GCQ (MGCQ).

Pakikinggan din muna aniya nila ang report ng Technical Working Group (TWG) hinggil sa data analytics para tuluyang makapaglabas ng desisyon ang pamahalaan hinggil dito.

“It is too early to say or to conclude kasi kailangan pa nating i-tally lahat at mayroon pang ilang nalalabing araw bago mag-July 1 o June 30,” pahayag pa ni Año, sa Laging Handa press briefing. “Titingnan muna natin o papakinggan ‘yung report ng TWG on data analytics para makapag-decide tayo.”

Matatandaang matapos ang ilang buwang pagsailalim sa ECQ at malaunan ay MECQ, inilagay ni Pang. Rodrigo Duterte sa GCQ ang Metro Manila noong Hunyo 1.

Noong Hunyo 15 naman ay nagpasya ang pangulo na i-extend ang pagpapairal ng GCQ sa Kamaynilaan hanggang sa Hunyo 30.

Sa ilalim ng GCQ, pinapayagan na ang mas maraming industriya na muling magbalik ng operasyon, gayundin ang limitadong bilang ng public transport vehicles.

Dahil naman sa patuloy pa ring pagtaas ng bilang ng naitatalang coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) sa bansa, partikular sa Metro Manila, marami ang nag-aalala na maisailalim ulit ito sa mas mahigpit na community quarantine sa mga susunod na araw.

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2020/06/26/2023619/estado-ng-community-quarantine-sa-metro-manila-maaga-pa-para-matukoy-dilg>

Año on NCR's quarantine status after June 30: Too early to say

Published June 25, 2020 1:45pm

By ANNA FELICIA BAJO, GMA News

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año on Thursday said it is too early to determine if the National Capital Region will be reverted to modified enhanced community quarantine or it will be placed under modified general community quarantine after June 30.

"It is too early to say or to conclude kasi kailangan pa nating i-tally lahat at mayroon pang ilang nalalabing araw bago mag-July 1 o June 30," Año said during the Laging Handa press briefing.

"Titingnan muna natin o papakinggan 'yung report ng TWG on data analytics para makapagdecide tayo," he added.

President Rodrigo Duterte has extended the GCQ in Metro Manila until June 30. This means more industries have resumed operations and a limited number of public transport vehicles are catering to the needs of commuters.

Experts from the University of the Philippines earlier said that COVID-19 cases in the Philippines increased slightly after the government relaxed community quarantines in some parts of the country.

So far, the Philippines has 32,295 confirmed cases, with 8,656 recoveries and 1,204 fatalities. —

RSJ, GMA News

Time to summon Bayanihan law implementors to Congress — solon

By: [Neil Arwin Mercado](#) - Reporter / [@NAMercadoINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 01:25 PM June 25, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Implementors of the Bayanihan To Heal as One Act should be summoned to Congress to see if they should be held accountable for the actions and decisions they made in relation to the country's fight against the coronavirus pandemic, a lawmaker said Thursday.

Bagong Henerasyon Partylist Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy said the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee tasked to oversee the implementation of Republic Act 11469 or the Bayanihan To Heal As One Act can hold public hearings and plenary sessions regarding the matter.

“It is time to summon to Congress the implementors of the Bayanihan To Heal As One Act. Enough time has passed since Congress approved RA 11469. The implementors should appear soon before the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee,” Herrera-Dy said in a statement.

“The written reports are not enough. Congressional oversight is a constitutional way to hold the officials and agencies accountable. This is best exercised through public hearings and plenary sessions,” the lawmaker added.

Section 5 of the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act states that Congress shall establish a Joint Congressional Oversight Committee composed of four members of each house—the Senate and the House of Representatives—to be appointed by the Senate President and the House Speaker, respectively.

The oversight committee is tasked to determine whether such acts, orders, rules and regulations implemented are within the restrictions of the law.

“On July 26, President Rodrigo Duterte is set to report to the Filipino people through the State of the Nation Address. Before that day comes, Congress must know from the Bayanihan Act implementors and COVID-19 response agencies the state of the health of the Filipino people,” Herrera-Dy said.

Herrera-Dy likewise said that workers and COVID-19 implementors must take more aggressive measures to keep COVID-19 out of homes and workplaces.

“Although the death toll has subsided and there are much fewer critical cases and severe cases, we still have thousands of new confirmed cases every week. The curative side is working, but the preventive dimension is full of holes,” she said.

She further pointed out that most of the new cases involved adults who are allowed to go out of their homes to work.

“They get infected while at work or while commuting to and from work. There is a gap that is not being addressed. Minimum health standards at workplaces are inadequate,” the lawmaker said.

As of June 24, there are [32,295 COVID-19 cases](#) in the country, with recoveries at 8,656 and death toll at 1,204.

EDV

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1297251/its-time-to-summon-bayanihan-to-heal-as-one-act-implementors-to-congress-solon>

Loans for COVID-19 response continue to rise

05:22 AM June 25, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — The head of the Duterte administration’s economic team on Wednesday said they expected President Rodrigo Duterte to decide in the next couple of days if he would ask Congress to convene a special session to pass pending stimulus bills that lacked time to approve before legislators went on break this month.

In the meantime, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III told an online forum that the Department of Finance (DOF) was raising more money through domestic and foreign borrowings to finance COVID-19 response as the Philippines enjoys low and concessional interest rates due to its investment-grade credit ratings.

Dominguez said they wanted to make sure that any special congressional session to be convened would be “productive.”

“We want to have a stimulus package. However, we want to have one that’s affordable—something that we’re not spending all our money at this particular time,” Dominguez said.

The economic team earlier lamented that the stimulus bills worth trillions of pesos, which were pending in Congress, would be “unfundable.”

Dominguez said the economic team was sticking to a fiscal deficit of up to 9 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) this year as a budget gap beyond this ceiling would be “very dangerous.”

Even without the stimulus spending yet, the Cabinet-level Development Budget Coordination Committee already projected the budget deficit to hit P1.61 trillion, or 8.4 percent of GDP, as expenditures on COVID-19 response continue to increase while tax collection remained weak amid a recession.

Dominguez said that as of June 9, the DOF raised P1.2 trillion in net domestic borrowings through the sale of government securities on top of the P300-billion financing support from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas through its repurchase agreement with the Bureau of the Treasury, with the bulk of the money funding measures addressing the health and socioeconomic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

From foreign lenders, Dominguez said the Philippines already borrowed a total of \$4.83 billion as of June 17: \$2.6 billion from the Asian Development Bank, \$1.2 billion from the World Bank, \$750 million from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and \$275.7 million from Agence Francaise de Development.

Of these external borrowings, \$2.26 billion were already disbursed or injected into the budget, Dominguez said. —Ben O. de Vera

Economic crisis

posted June 26, 2020 at 12:15 am

by [Tony Lopez](#)

"Recovery will take a long time coming."

The World Bank has forecast a decline in economic output by the Philippines of 3.6 percent for 2020. This is almost double the previous forecast of a 1.9-percent decline in GDP real growth for this year. The doubling of the drop in GDP, minus the effect of inflation, means the economic situation is worsening. Other economists forecast an ever deeper Philippine GDP decline this year -- six percent.

The 3.6-percent economic slowdown is the worst in 36 years since 1984, when the economy contracted by a record 7.4 percent because of a political assassination. That political crisis caused a run on the country's dollar reserves, froze credit, drained money supply, and raised interest rates to as high as 44 percent per year. The peso declined in value, from P18 per dollar to P55 per dollar, a devaluation of 211 percent.

This year, the Philippines' dollar reserves hit a historic high of \$93.29 billion in May, at the height of the pandemic, an increase of \$2.35 billion from the April 2020 level of \$90.94 billion. The peso has also become one of the strongest in the region, hitting P49.9495 per dollar yesterday. The currency seems to be seeking a P48 to \$1 rate. That will be an appreciation of 8.2 percent from the January-April 2019 average of P52.296.

I have never seen an economic crisis where a country's dollar supply rises rather than drops and the currency appreciates, rather than depreciates.

This year, there is no political crisis although the Duterte administration is preparing an Anti-Terror Law that rivals those of its ASEAN neighbors in the grant of awesome powers to the police and the military. If you are a terrorist, you might want to be in hiding. If you are a communist, you might want to be in hiding. And if you are a severe critic of government, you might want to study your hiding options.

This year's crisis is economic, social, and structural. The lockdown that has lasted 102 days will cause loss in economic output of P4 trillion, with more than 80 percent of the country's annual output of P20 trillion shut down for more than 100 days. I estimate more than 32 million workers have lost their jobs. A third of those jobs will never come back.

On June 9, the World Bank reported, quoting a government survey, 77 percent of micro and small firms and 62 percent of medium-sized firms had to close due to the enhanced community quarantines. Those that remained open suffered a 66.5 percent drop in sales.

The World Bank's growth forecast for 2020 assumes that the containment measures will gradually ease in the second half of the year, and economic activities will return in some sectors of the economy. Given income losses and heightened uncertainty, household consumption and private investment are expected to remain weak, the bank said.

Over the long pull, the bank is optimistic. "Economic growth prospects and poverty figures are expected to improve in succeeding years driven by a rebound in consumption, a stronger push in public investment, supportive fiscal and monetary policies, and the recovery of global growth. Economic growth is projected to return to above 6 percent in 2021 and 7 percent in 2022. Increased economic activity surrounding national elections will also boost growth in 2022," the World Bank's Manila office said.

Says the World Bank: “The Philippines’ strong fundamentals, built over decades of structural reforms, has helped the economy to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Philippines has abundant external reserves and the lowest public external debt in the East Asia and the Pacific Region. Also, the country has the highest reserve ratio in the region, indicating that monetary policy has plenty of room to inject liquidity into the economy and help boost growth.”

Don’t be complacent though. The International Monetary Fund, the central bank of central banks, reported on June 25, 2020 that this year’s crisis is a crisis like no other, with recovery uncertain. IMF sees a decline in global growth of 4.9 percent, more than double its earlier forecast of just a 1.9-percent drop. In 2021, global growth recovers, to 5.4 percent.

Rich countries will show deeper declines in growth: United States (–8.0%); Japan (–5.8%); the United Kingdom (–10.2%); Germany (–7.8%); France (–12.5%); Italy and Spain (–12.8%). Together, the advanced economies will decline in growth by 8 percent and recover to 4.8 percent rate in 2021. China will grow by a measly one percent, from 6.1 percent in 2019 but recovers to 6.2 percent in 2021.

The ASEAN Five together will show economic decline of two percent for 2020 and growth of 6.2 percent in 2021.

Ninety percent of emerging and developing countries, which include the Philippines, will show negative growth in per capita income. The emerging economies will decline 3 percent this year but recover to 5.9 percent growth in 2021.

Global full-time job losses will swell from 130 million to 300 million by the second quarter of 2020. The good news is that inflation in emerging economies this year moderates, to 4.4 percent, from 5.1 percent last year.

Oil spot prices per barrel are seen at \$36.20 in 2020 and \$37.50 in 2021, and \$46 thereafter, still 25% below the 2019 average.

On balance, it is still bad news for the economy this year. And recovery will take a long time coming.

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CSC extends deadline anew for filing of gov't workers' SALN

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 12:23 AM June 26, 2020

MANILA, Philippines – The filing of Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) for public employees and officials has been extend again due to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

CSC's Memorandum Circular No. 13, signed by Chairperson Alicia dela Rosa-Bala, said that the new deadline is on August 31, or at least 60 days after the initial June 30 deadline.

“All public officials and employees are given additional period of sixty (60) days from June 30, 2020, the last day of filing of the SALN, or until August 31, 2020, to file their SALN with their respective departments, offices, or agencies, unless the circumstances require otherwise,” the memorandum dated Monday said. Aside from this, online oath taking and filing are allowed online, to promote stay-at-home policies and distancing protocols placed due to the health crisis.

To do this, the administering of a person who declares his or her SALN can meet through a virtual meeting through video conferencing, which allows the individual to communicate simultaneously.

“Upon collation of the SALNs, the concerned department, office or agency has the option to submit/transmit the collated SALNs with the proper repository either physically or electronically,” CSC explained.

“The concerned department, office or agency shall exercise only one option in submitting the SALNs, not a combination of both, in order to facilitate centralized recording and monitoring by repository agencies,” they added.

The SALN is a document where government employees, whether regular or under a contract service, are required to fill up their assets like properties, financial investments and businesses they own or co-own, and even their cash on banks and on hand.

Their liabilities like loans must also be indicated. These documents have been used numerous times to pin down public officials for alleged unexplained wealth, as failure to fully declare their assets and liabilities is a punishable offense, while people consider it to be a sign of corruption.

Meanwhile, consolidated SALN forms of employees shall be submitted by departments, agencies, and offices by October 31, 2020, or an additional 60 days from the previous deadline of August 31.

This extension of the [SALN deadline](#) was the second within this year, after the previous April 30 deadline was also stretched to accommodate government employees affected by the lockdown restrictions over Luzon and other areas from March to May.

As of now, the Philippines has one of the highest coronavirus infection rates in the Southeast Asian region, with 33,069 confirmed COVID-19 cases, of which 1,212 have died while 8,910 have recovered.

Despite quarantine restrictions being lifted in various areas including Metro Manila, a lot of government offices are still not operating fully, either due to preventive measures or some offices registering coronavirus cases.

JPV

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1297634/csc-extends-deadline-anew-for-filing-of-govt-workers-saln>

Jeepneys: Decadence on the road

posted June 26, 2020 at 12:30 am

"Old jeepneys, according to Malacañang Palace, may never be allowed to operate again."

The jeepney as a mode of mass transportation has lost its iconic status and is now a symbol of road decadence that politicians have perpetuated.

The current rickety make of most of these jeepneys and their unsafe features have led to accidents on the roads, with their undisciplined drivers mainly responsible for the mishaps. A post-World War II creation, the jeepney equipped with reconditioned engines plied major roads in Metro Manila and the provinces, and was the most popular form of mass transportation. Its inefficient consumption of fuel and road unworthiness, however, will send it oblivion as the nation modernizes the mass transportation system.

The government has recognized that the age of jeepneys is coming to an end to give way to a modern form of transportation—one that is fuel-efficient and environment-friendly, and operating on economies-of-scale.

Old jeepneys, according to Malacañang Palace, may never be allowed to operate again amid the general community quarantine in Metro Manila. The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board is now conducting an assessment to determine if Metro Manila would have enough transportation with the planned phaseout of traditional jeepneys.

The government is introducing "modern jeepneys," or basically mini-buses, to push the delayed Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program of the state. The program essentially aims to phase out jeepneys, buses and other public utility vehicles that are at least 15 years old and replacing them with safe and more comfortable alternatives over the next three years.

The jeepney phaseout is timely. It gives regulators the chance to change the current franchising system, revise and introduce new routes and provide training to about 50,000 jeepney drivers in the face of a modernizing metropolis.

Traditional jeepney operators, meanwhile, should form cooperatives and consortiums to enable them to acquire at least 10 of the modern jeepneys offered at P1.4 million each under the government's PUV modernization program.

The Philippine economy is fast developing. As the economy expands, it will need modern buses and mini-buses, more rail networks and modern modes of transportation. The jeepneys had served their purpose in the past. They have no place in the current and future Philippine roadmap.



KRISIS SA EDUKASYON PAGTULUNGANG LUTASIN

June 25, 2020 @ 11:35 AM 21 hours ago

Matatapos na ang buwan ng Hunyo at pukpukan pa rin ang mga pagpapa-enroll sa lahat ng antas ng edukasyon para sa school year 2020-2021.

Sa pinakahuling ulat, halos 14 milyon pa lang ang nakapag-e-enroll mula sa inaasahang halos 28 milyong estudyante.

Ito'y para sa antas ng kindergarten at elementarya hanggang sa high school at senior high school, pampubliko man o pribado.

Iba pa ang papasok sa state universities and colleges, kasama ang local universities and colleges, at mga pribadong kolehiyo o unibersidad.

Sa loob ng buwan ng Hulyo hanggang Agosto 24 na araw ng pasukan talaga malalaman ang kabuuang papasok na estudyante sa lahat ng antas.

KAPUNA-PUNA

Isang kapuna-puna sa mga araw na ito ang pagiging kalahati pa lang ng enrollees sa kabila ng pinaghalo nang online, drop box at iba pang estilo ng pagpapa-enroll.

May mahaba pang panahon, halos dalawang buwan hanggang Agosto 24 at doon natin talaga malalaman ang papasok na estudyante sa lahat ng antas.

Subalit lumalabas sa bunganga mismo ng mga awtoridad sa edukasyon na malamang umanong may kabawasan sa kanilang inaasahang mag-enroll.

Ang pangunahing dahilan ay ang pagsalakay ng coronavirus disease-19.

Marami kasi ang takot na takot na mahawa ang mga bata sa wala pang saktong bakuna o gamot na COVID-19.

Sinong magulang o guardian o estudyante mismo ang may gustong mahawa para magkasakit o mamatay sa sakit na ito?

IBANG MGA DAHILAN

Subalit may iba pang mga dahilan kung bakit posibleng malaki ang ibabawas ng papasok ngayong taon sa mga eskwela.

Hindi maikakaila na marami ang nawalan ng trabaho o kita na haligi ng mga tahanan.

Mga obrero sa mga nagsarang pabrika o opisina, mga kinalos mula sa nakatindig pa ngunit patay-sindi ang kalagayang negosyo.

Malaki rin ang mababawas na estudyante mula sa mga pamilya ng mga overseas Filipino worker na nawalan ng hanapbuhay sa ibang bansa.

Sa madaling salita, walang panggastos.

Kahit maraming libre sa edukasyon, lalo na sa hanay ng mga pampublikong eskwelahan, may mga gastos pa rin gaya ng mga pamasaha at pambili ng gamit at proyekto sa mga eskwela.

PAGLIPAT NG ESKWELA

Ang paglipat ng mga mula sa pribadong eskwela patungo sa mga pampublikong eskwela ang isang malaking problema, mga Bro.

Para sa mga may kaunting kakayahan sa pagpapaaral ngunit kinakapos pa rin, gusto nilang ilipat ang mga mag-aaral mula sa pribado patungo sa mga pampublikong iskul para makatipid at makapagpapatuloy sa pag-aaral.

Paano ang mga iskul na ayaw tumanggap nang hindi babalik sa unang baytang ang lumipat na estudyante?

'Yun bang === kahit graduating ka na sa pribadong eskwela, kinakailangan mong maging first year pa rin.

Nangyayari ang ganitong sistema sa kolehiyo at high school.

Paano ito lulutasin ng pamahalaan, lalo na ng Department of Education at Commission on Higher Education?

WORKING STUDENTS

Sa palagay ng ULTIMATUM, matindi ang tama ng COVID-19 sa mga working student.

Maaaring okey lang ang kalagayan ng mga school-based na estudyante gaya ng mga dyanitor, student assistant at iba pa.

Subalit ang mga nagtatrabaho sa mga kompanya o nawalan ng negosyo o anomang pagkakitaan, paano?

Ang tanong ngayon, gaano karami ang working students na namamasukan sa mga pribadong kompanya o mismo sa pamahalaan ngunit nasibak sa pagbabawas ng gastusin ng mga ito?

Gaano karami ang mga working student na kumikita sa sarili nilang paraan at pagsisikap ngunit nawalan dahil sa epekto ng COVID-19?

Sayang ang mga ito dahil nagmumula rito ang mga seryosong estudyante na makatapos sa pag-aaral, nasa high school man o kolehiyo o unibersidad.

Ano-ano na ang mga pupwedeng gawin ng mga awtoridad para sa mga ito?

Paano magtulungan, pangunahin ang DepEd at CHED, para lutasin ang mga problemang ito sa edukasyon na maaaring isang kalagayang-krisis sa panahong ito?

The wonder of planting

By: [Jose Ma. Montelibano](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 01:00 AM June 26, 2020

There have been so many meaningful subject matters which have been demanding of me to find verbal and literary expression.

Thanks to social media apps, including Zoom and how it is forcing others to upgrade their video messaging options, the verbal discourses are being accommodated. Quarantine has left few alternatives, especially to senior citizens like me, and online meetings are the major communication outlet.

Writing, though, is another thing. I like to write sometimes and wish I can write more – and better. The physical act is challenging for someone who does not know how to type beyond using two or three fingers.

It is tedious and prone to error, especially the editing part that requires an adequate amount of familiarity with mobile devices, computers, and keyboards. If I were proficient with this process of writing, I definitely would be multiplying my output. Still, I plod on, often unable to contain in peace my thoughts and sentiments on concerns important.

Planting is one of them. Of course, planting itself is just one activity in a major spectrum of life involving our land and seas, agriculture and related technologies, and most important of all, human survival and development.

By planting, I do not mean just an act but more a crucial activity in the continuing drama of human existence. I am not really an active farmer though I think I ought to be one as well. It is never too late to help one's survival and ease the burden that our community and government carry because of others like me.

Decades ago, and for 15 of my best years, I was deeply involved in agriculture as part of a company that dominated the country in the production, sale, and marketing of fertilizers – with chemicals on the side. My education about farmers and farming, in general, came from there.

Looking back, I wish I had spent more time in the field, to have had more interaction with farmers and imbibe life in the rural area. Still, 15 years were enough to have an operational overview about agriculture, from production and marketing of farm inputs to logistical and financial requirements, to post-harvest scenarios and prices of commodities in the open market.

It was later, though, when I had additional years of living several days a week in an upland barangay when I learned the deeper lessons. And it was not about farming, it was about life in a rural area far from the modernity of highly urbanized cities.

It was where I learned about the value of land and how the relationship between man and land was not something we can just break without painful consequences. It made me understand the pain of man without land or access to it, and the need for him to use that land to secure life itself.

The separation of man and the free use and control of land was a political and military decree, the wholesale confiscation of our country's lands by a foreign power. That separation kept man at the animal level, working and eating from his toil, nothing more.

From farmer, the Filipino became a beast of burden, or, at best, a slave, allowed only to take and follow instructions. That separation of centuries ago wrought havoc to the lives of Filipinos. Sadly, government under all administrations since independence never tried to resolve that historical anomaly of land confiscation.

Either we believe that creation is divinely designed or we do not. Whatever our answer determines how we understand life to be, and human behavior will flow from there.

I believe that creation is divinely designed, and that the nature of existence has a higher order from where natural laws are derived and empowered. I will speak as one who believes this, and to others who also believe similarly. I have no other way to understand and share what I know.

I entitled this article as “the wonder of planting.” I did so because planting represents the development of human habits. It is our doing things over and over again, like breathing, drinking, and eating because it is natural to us. One key difference between man and animal is that an animal eats what nature provides but a human plants so he can eat more or better.

Planting is a human development activity and much more. Planting secures man’s survival and builds his habits, his productive habits. Why else do we call the fruits of man’s planting habits as produce? Animals eat but humans produce.

Planting teaches man that a habit has rewards if it is done consistently, carefully, and intelligently. On the other hand, habits that are not productive are discouraged, even punished, because they cause discord and damage to others. The very values of survival and human cooperation are nurtured in planting because planting is habit-forming – forming habits with a productive value.

Of course, other activities can also develop good and productive habits, but few as effective. In planting, the earth, the land, the water, are natural partners. Moreover, when a farmer plants, his learning is shared by osmosis to his family, to the community.

If we cannot plant for physical food, let us nevertheless plant for the other foods of value to our lives. Planting is investing in something that is productive.

It requires planning and guidance by those more mature and learned who can teach us about consistency, patience, and adaptability. Is this not what school tries to teach as well, especially the principle of learning more than the transitory subject? That which is learned permanently is the process by which man grows his abilities and uses them for productive purposes.

Of course, in case I have not said it enough here or in previous articles, planting food has never become so crucial as today under Covid-19 conditions. The more we produce food, the closer we are to food, the more our survival is guaranteed even under the worst of circumstances. Nothing makes us feel more secure than food.

Plant, plant, plant.

Spanish firm turns over \$127m Putatan water plant

posted June 25, 2020 at 09:00 pm

by [Manila Standard](#)

ACCIONA, a Spanish global leader in providing sustainable solutions for infrastructure and renewable energy projects, recently turned over the US\$127 million (P6.36 billion) Putatan II drinking water treatment plant in Muntinlupa to its client, Maynilad Water Services Inc., after involvement in its design and construction up to its operation and maintenance for the first 12 months.

Through advanced reverse osmosis technology that uses a small carbon footprint, the new plant treats 150,000 cubic meters of raw water per day from Laguna de Bay, the largest lake in the Philippines and the second-biggest inland freshwater lake in Southeast Asia, to provide clean and potable water to nearly 1.5 million people.

In strengthening its presence in the Philippines, ACCIONA bagged another Maynilad contract to put up a plant with similar requirements in the Laguna Lake area.

“One of ACCIONA’s goals in the country is to supply clean drinking water to as many households as possible,” Ruben Camba, ACCIONA Country Manager, said.

ACCIONA previously won the contract to construct the 650-meter Cebu-Cordova cable-stayed bridge that will provide a faster and more accessible connection between Cebu’s industrial zone and Mactan International Airport and to Cordova’s new urban developments on Mactan Island.

ACCIONA is a global company with a business model based on sustainability. Its aim is to respond to society’s main needs through the provision of renewable energy, infrastructure, water and services.

With a presence in more than 40 countries, it carries out its business activities based on the commitment to contribute to the economic and social development of the communities in which it operates.

The sustainability strategy at ACCIONA is executed through the Sustainability Master Plan, a road map which incorporates all of the company’s initiatives in this field.

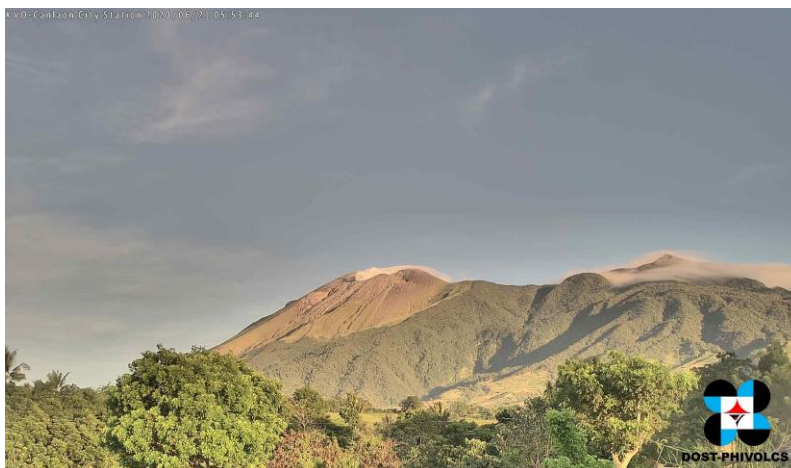
ACCIONA’s goal is to lead the transition towards a low-carbon economy, which is why it equips all its projects with quality criteria and innovation processes intended to optimise the efficient use of resources and respect for the environment.

The company has been carbon neutral since 2016, offsetting all CO2 emissions generated which it could not reduce. ACCIONA features in selective sustainability indices such as the FTSE4Good, CDP Climate & Water A List 2017, and STOXX Global Climate Change Leaders Index, among others.

44 earthquakes recorded in Kanlaon Volcano in 24 hours

By: [Cathrine Gonzales](#) - Reporter / [@cgonzalesINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 08:35 AM June 25, 2020



Kanlaon Volcano (Photo by Phivolcs taken on June 23, 2020)

MANILA, Philippines — A total of 44 volcano tectonic earthquakes were recorded from the western flanks of Kanlaon Volcano on Negros Island in the last 24 hours as it emitted white steam-laden plumes that rose 200 meters, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said on Thursday.

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emission was measured at an average of 237 tonnes per day on Wednesday, based on the 8 a.m. bulletin of Phivolcs. SO₂ is a major gas component of magma.

“Ground deformation data from continuous GPS (global positioning system) measurements indicate a slight deflation of the lower and mid slopes since January 2020. Short-term electronic tilt monitoring on the southeastern flanks recorded continuing deflation on the lower slopes but inflation on the mid slopes since April 2020,” Phivolcs added.

The agency said these parameters indicate that hydrothermal or magmatic activity is occurring beneath the edifice.

Alert level 1 remains raised, indicating that the volcano is in “an abnormal condition and has entered a period of unrest.”

On Wednesday, Phivolcs said a total of [38 earthquakes were recorded](#) from the western flanks of the volcano during the 24-hour observation period. It also noted “moderate emission” of white steam-laden plumes that rose 300 meters before drifting southwest.

Entry into the four-kilometer radius permanent danger zone is strictly prohibited due to the possibility of sudden and hazardous steam-driven or phreatic eruptions.

Phivolcs reminded civil aviation authorities to advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano’s summit as ejecta as materials spewed into the air from any sudden phreatic eruption can be dangerous to aircraft.

Source: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1297112/44-earthquakes-recorded-in-kanlaon-volcano-in-24-hours>



Bulkang Kanlaon, patuloy na naglalabas ng plumes; Alert Level 1, nakataas pa rin

June 25, 2020 @ 12:14 PM 20 hours ago

Manila, Philippines – Nananatiling nakataas ang Alert Level 1 sa Bulkang Kanlaon sa patuloy na paglalabas nito ng white steam-laden plumes, ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS).

Sa 8 a.m. bulletin nitong ngayong Huwebes, sinabi ng PHIVOLCS na moderate pa rin ang emission at tumaas sa 200 metro bago ito magtungo pa-hilagang-kanluran.

“DOST-PHIVOLCS would like to remind the public that Kanlaon Volcano is at Alert Level 1, which means that it is at an abnormal condition and has entered a period of unrest,” ayon dito.

Nakapagtala ng 44 volcano-tectonic earthquakes ang PHIVOLCS sa western flanks ng bulkan sa nakalipas na 24 oras.

Nitong Miyerkoles, sinuri ng PHIVOLCS ang paglalabas ng sulfur dioxide ng Kanlaon sa 237 tonnes kada araw.

“These parameters indicate that hydrothermal or magmatic activity is occurring beneath the edifice,” anang PHIVOLCS.

Sinabi rin ni PHIVOLCS Officer-in-Charge Undersecretary Renato Solidum Jr. na hindi nangangahulugang tumataas ang magma sa ilalim ng main crater dahil sa mga naitatalang lindol.

“The local government units and the public are strongly reminded that entry into the 4-kilometer radius Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) must be strictly prohibited due to the further possibilities of sudden and hazardous steam-driven or phreatic eruptions,” ayon sa PHIVOLCS.

“Civil aviation authorities must also advise pilots to avoid flying close to the volcano’s summit as ejecta from any sudden phreatic eruption can be hazardous to aircraft,” dagdag pa nito. **RNT/MM**

Alert Level 1 nananatili sa Kanlaon

Balita

By Leifbilly Begas June 25, 2020



NANANATILI ang Alert Level 1 sa Bulkang Kanlaon na muling nagbuga ng puting usok sa nakaraang 24-oras.

“Moderate emission of white steam-laden plumes that rose 200 meters before drifting northwest was observed,” ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

Nakapagtala rin ng 44 volcano-tectonic earthquakes ang Phivolcs mula kahapon hanggang kaninang umaga.

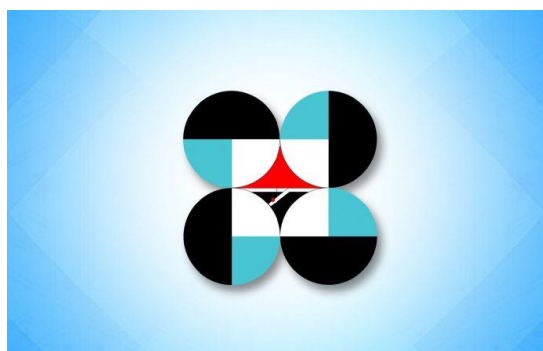
“DOST-PHIVOLCS would like to remind the public that Kanlaon Volcano is at Alert Level 1, which means that it is at an abnormal condition and has entered a period of unrest.”

Binabalaan din ang mga eruplano na huwag dumaan sa bunganga ng bulkan.

“The local government units and the public are strongly reminded that entry into the 4-kilometer radius Permanent Danger Zone (PDZ) must be strictly prohibited due to the further possibilities of sudden and hazardous steam-driven or phreatic eruptions.”

No evacuation yet for residents near Kanlaon Volcano

June 25, 2020



The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) does not recommend the evacuation of residents near Kanlaon Volcano despite its continuous activity.

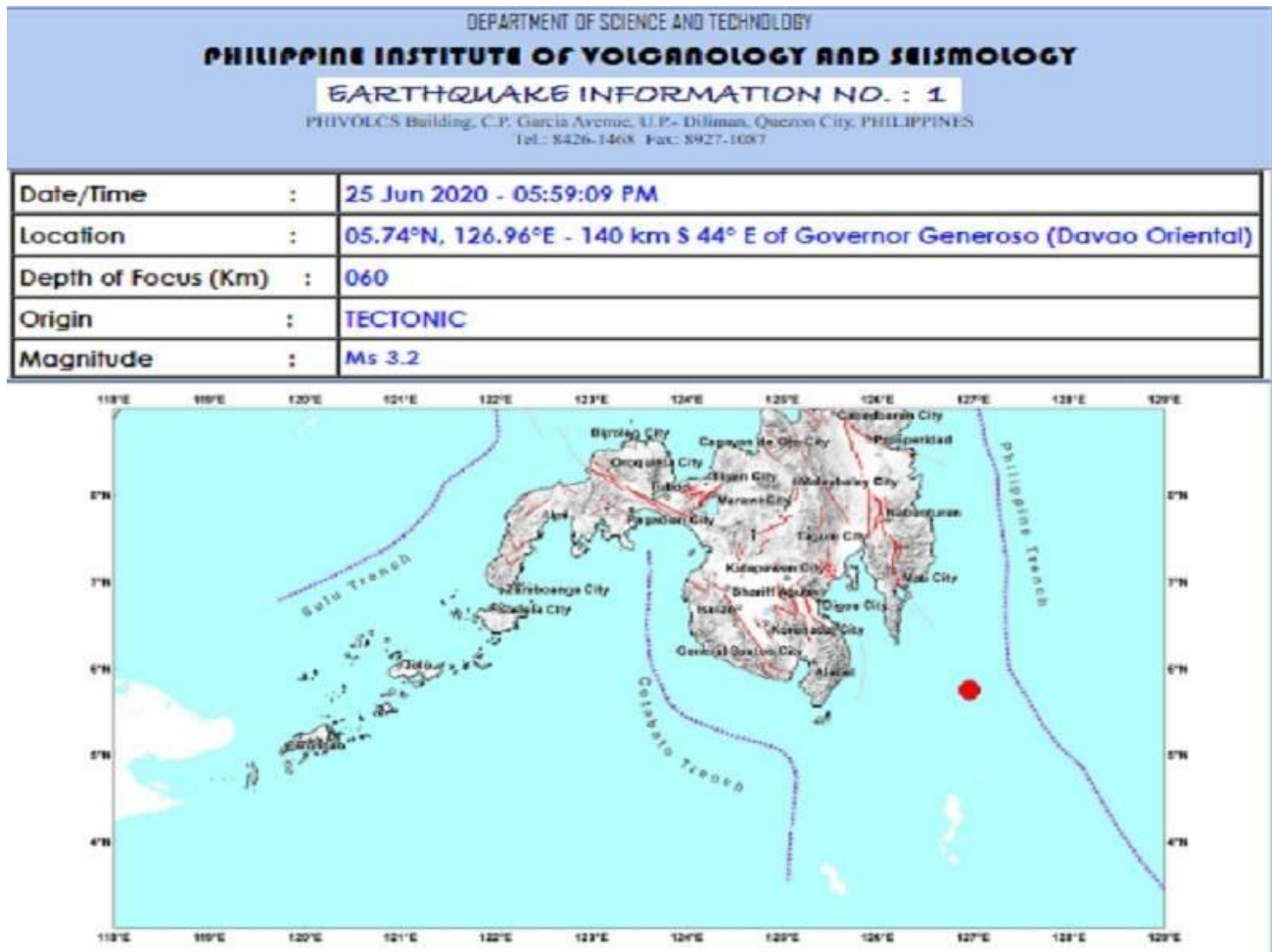
44 volcanic tectonic earthquakes have been reported in the past 24 hours, and Mt. Kanlaon has emitted white smoke reaching 200 meters. Alert level 1 has been raised and entering the 4-kilometer radius permanent danger zone is prohibited.

According to PHIVOLCS, there is no indication of the magma rising to its crater which may cause a huge eruption. However, the agency is asking the public to be alert amid the volcanic earthquakes.

Report from Bea Bernardo

Governor Generoso, Davao Oriental niyanig ng magnitude 3.2 na lindol

By Mary Rose Cabrales June 25, 2020 - 06:37 PM



Niyanig ng magnitude 3.2 na lindol ang lalawigan ng Davao Oriental.

Ayon sa Phivolcs, naitala ang pagyanig sa 140 kilometers southeast ng bayan ng Governor Generoso, alas-5:59 hapon ng Huwebes (June 25).

May lalim na 60 kilometers at tectonic ang origin ng pagyanig.

Wala namang inaasahang pagkasira sa mga ari-arian, intensities at aftershocks.

Conservationists warn COVID waste may result in

TITLE: 'more masks than jellyfish' in the sea

PAGE 1/ 1/2

June 26, 2020

DATE

Conservationists warn COVID waste may result in 'more masks than jellyfish' in the sea

By Francesca Giuliani-Hoffman, CNN

Published Jun 25, 2020 6:12:13 AM



(CNN) — Beaches on the French Côte d'Azur like Cannes or St. Tropez are among the most coveted vacation spots worldwide, but now the coronavirus pandemic has left an abundance of pollutants in the water: discarded masks and gloves.

"How would you like swimming with COVID-19 this summer?" Laurent Lombard, a diver and founder of the nonprofit Opération Mer Propre (Operation Clean Sea) asked in a Facebook post last month.

His organization has been sounding the alarm about finding discarded PPE and hand sanitizer bottles in their sea cleanup operations, and shared pictures of their findings with CNN.

Lombard warned on Facebook that "soon there may be more masks than jellyfish" in the Mediterranean sea.

'We have to take this very seriously'

Julie Hellec, a spokesperson for Opération Mer Propre, told CNN that the sight of PPE floating in the Mediterranean was a first in 15 years of diving for Lombard.

"We have to take this very seriously," Hellec said.

Hellec estimates the Covid waste retrieved during sea cleanups to be less than 5% of the total waste Opération Mer Propre usually collects, but the organization is worried this could escalate rapidly.

"If someone had alerted us to the problem of plastic bottles and plastic bags from the start, would we have continued?" Hellec said.

Opération Mer Propre wants to raise awareness on how avoiding littering is crucial to keeping oceans clean. "A simple gesture like not throwing a glove on the ground is to save the planet," Hellec told CNN.

"Regarding COVID waste, of course we must favor reusable masks and gloves and ban disposable," she added.

A growing problem

French beaches are not the only place where Covid waste has been detected.

In late February, Hong Kong-based organization OceansAsia reported finding "masses of surgical masks washing up on the shoreline" in the Soko Islands.

Using masks to reduce the spread of germs has been a cultural staple in Asia long before the Covid-19 pandemic, but OceansAsia noted a marked difference.

Conservationists warn COVID waste may result in
TITLE: 'more masks than jellyfish' in the sea

PAGE 1/ 2/2

June 26, 2020
DATE

"When you suddenly have a population of 7 million people wearing one to two masks per day the amount of trash generated is going to be substantial," they wrote on their website.

The production of single-use PPE has drastically ramped up during the pandemic. A recent study in the Environment, Science & Technology journal estimates that 129 billion face masks and 65 billion gloves are being used each month.

Nick Mallos, a senior director with the nonprofit organization Ocean Conservancy, called these numbers "staggering."

"In many places around the world the basic waste collection does not exist to manage that volume of waste, so unfortunately we are likely to see that waste finding its way downstream on beaches and in the ocean," Mallos told CNN.

"Even here in the United States, in the EU, in other places around the world that have robust and sophisticated waste systems, we're still seeing PPE littering roadways, washing down waterways."

"Unfortunately, trash travels," Mallos added.

If items like masks and gloves end up in the ocean, species like seabirds and sea turtles might become entangled in them or ingest them, according to Mallos.

"We know that sea turtles often feed on things like plastic bags and balloons that are in the marine environment, so it's quite likely that we will see a similar type of feeding behavior."

Mallos stressed how important it is to follow public health guidelines around the use of PPE, while cutting back on plastic products for which there are safe and suitable alternatives, like take out containers or plastic bags.

"We have to be serious about reducing the amount of single use plastics in our society where it is appropriate, while at the same time, ensuring we have the appropriate systems to manage the waste generated from lifesaving materials like personal protective equipment," Mallos argued.

Reusing containers and bags when possible is another great option. A statement signed on Monday by over 100 scientists from around the world, and environmental protection groups like Greenpeace USA, says that reusable products "can be used safely by employing basic hygiene," like washing them properly.

New challenges

Mallos and others are optimistic that this moment will help generate even more awareness about the importance of proper waste management and of making environmentally conscious decisions. That's something conservationists have worked hard over the years to get people, governments and businesses on board with.

Erin Simon, who leads the packaging and material science program at WWF, told CNN that even though the pandemic presents new challenges for environmental conservation, it'll actually emphasize the importance of continuing this work.

"I think individuals should stay the course and they should keep doing their part in this," Simon told CNN.

It might feel overwhelming to tackle Covid waste on top of the plastic waste humans typically produce. That's because humans produce an estimated 8 million tons per year, or one full dump truck a minute ending up in the ocean, according to a World Economic Forum study. But according to Simon, the moment puts in perspective the importance of individual actions.

"Not one of us owns the solution. We all have to work together and each of us has a unique role to play," Simon said.

Source: <https://cnnphilippines.com/world/2020/6/25/COVID-mask-jellyfish.html>

Antarctic melting could bring a much hotter future

Antarctic melting can force sea ice retreat of 50 metres daily. CO2 levels are at their highest for 23 million years. Learn from the past.



Summer heat in Antarctica. Image: [adfoto, CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

By Tim Radford, Climate News Network
June 25, 2020

Antarctic melting starts with dramatic speed. Ice shelves during [the sudden warm spell at the close of the last Ice Age](#) retreated at up to 50 metres a day.

This finding is not based on climate simulations generated by computer algorithms. It is based on direct evidence left 12,000 years ago on the Antarctic sea floor by retreating ice.

The finding is an indirect indicator of how warm things could get – and how high sea levels could rise – as humans burn ever more fossil fuels and raise atmospheric greenhouse gas levels to ever higher ratios.

And as if to highlight the approaching climate catastrophe, a second and separate study finds that [the measure of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere now](#) is not just higher than at any time in human history or at any interval in the Ice Ages. It is the highest for at least 23 million years.

British scientists report in the journal [Science](#) that they used an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV), cruising at depth in the Weddell Sea, to read the pattern of the past preserved in ridges of the Antarctic seabed.

The original push for the expedition had been to search for the ship Endurance, commanded by the polar explorer Ernest Shackleton on his doomed voyage in 1914. The loss of the ship, crushed in the polar ice, and the rescue of his crew became [one of the epic stories of maritime history](#).

The researchers did not find Endurance. But they did find an enduring record of past ice retreat.

Should climate change continue to weaken the ice shelves in the coming decades, we could see similar rates of retreat, with profound implications for global sea level rise.

Julian Dowdeswell, director, Scott Polar Research Institute

Sea ice skirts about 75 per cent of the continent's coastline: when it melts it makes no difference to sea levels, but while it remains frozen it does serve the purpose of [buttressing glacial flow from the high Antarctic interior](#). Brushed by [increasingly warm air each summer](#), and swept by slowly warming ocean currents all year round, the ice shelves are thinning and retreating.

Tell-tale line

Underneath the ice, the research team's robot submarine spotted wave-like ridges, each about a metre high and 20 to 25 metres apart: ridges formed at what had once been the grounding line – the point at which a grounded ice sheet starts to float, and evidence of ice rising and falling with the tides.

There are twelve hours between high tide and low, so by measuring the distance between the ridges, scientists could measure the pace of retreat at the end of the last Ice Age. It is estimated at 40 to 50 metres a day.

Right now, the fastest retreat measured from grounding lines in Antarctica is only about 1.6 kms a year. The implication is that it could get a lot faster.

“Should climate change continue to weaken the ice shelves in the coming decades, we could see similar rates of retreat, with profound implications for global sea level rise,” said [Julian Dowdeswell, director of the Scott Polar Research Institute](#) in Cambridge, who led the research.

Faster change ahead

Past warm periods are associated only with relatively modest rises in atmospheric carbon dioxide. Right now, researchers have repeatedly confirmed that the present increasingly rapid rise is the highest in the last 800,000 years.

Now a team from the US and Norway report in the journal [Geology](#) that they have measured past atmospheric carbon levels in fossil plants to establish that present day carbon levels are higher currently than at any time in the last 23 million years.

This means that – unless there are drastic steps to contain global warming – the retreat will become increasingly more rapid, and the rate of glacial flow towards the sea ever faster.

Were all the ice in Antarctica to melt, [sea levels would rise by about 60 metres](#), completely submerging many of the world's great cities.

The heli adventure tour that moves at a glacial pace

Text by Sarah Sekula, CNN; video by Diana Diroy • Published 25th June 2020

(CNN) — As the helicopter swoops over the landing site, the clouds part to reveal a bluebird day. From the distance, it's all jagged peaks, crackling ice and snow-covered glacial fields as far as the eye can see.

But then after the 30-minute flight over dense forests and canyons draped with waterfalls, the showstopper appears: a brilliantly blue crescent-shaped lake.



A 30-minute helicopter ride from Vancouver, British Columbia, deposits guests in a remote wilderness.
Nick Drader

This remote section of British Columbia's backcountry would be the group's playground for the next four hours. A dreamy scene, indeed, and exactly what Virginia-based Ryan George and his five buddies, from Virginia and California, had been anticipating for the past 14 months.

That's how far ahead they planned the dream excursion with [Compass Heli Tours](#), an adventure outfitter based in Abbotsford, near Vancouver.

Now that it's finally a reality, George feels a bit like James Bond arriving at a secret base camp to prep for a clandestine mission.



Compass Heli Tours is an adventure outfitter based in Abbotsford, near Vancouver.
Courtesy Nick Drader

"You can't help but swagger when you get out of a helicopter in a place so epic," he says.

This area is so remote, in fact, that most of the lakes don't have names.

Nick Drader, CEO of Compass Heli Tours, simply calls it paradise. And it's easy to see why. There's astounding beauty in all directions and not a soul in sight. The nearest road is miles away.

Soon after arriving (George and three friends in one chopper and two more friends in another chopper), Drader unloads the gear and gives a quick safety briefing. With that, the kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding begins. The six friends immediately set out to explore the lake, captivated by the floating ice.



Floating ice along the way is part of the kayaking adventure.

Nick Drader

For a while they delight in batting practice, using their paddles to hit snowballs onto the riverbank.

"The texture of the submerged ice reminded me of submerged portions of Antarctic icebergs, only with clearer, brighter water," George says. "The bottom of the lake looms midnight blue in cracks, and the gradients of blue in between make irreproducible art."

The water is about seven feet deep in most sections, but where the ice presses up from the deeper part of the glacier it is about 40 feet deep. So as their glacier kayaking wraps up, several of them strip down to their undies and plunge into the frigid water.

Because, why not?

Transformed into five-year-olds, the 40-somethings are soaking up every facet surrounding them.

"One of my buddies said this was more epic than any of the days his kids were born," George recalls.

Post-kayaking, they chopper over to another lake at a lower elevation. Here, they lunch at a sandbar, guarded on three sides by vertical mountains, and swap adventure stories.

Wildlife trading must be banned – WWF

By [KHMER TIMES](#)

June 26, 2020

PHNOM PENH: World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature is calling for urgent global action to address factors which it projected would be key drivers in triggering possible zoonotic disease outbreaks in the future. The action comes amid the current coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, which has battered countries worldwide.

In a press release issued on Tuesday, the WWF listed factors it identified as high-risk trade and consumption of wild animals, land-use conversion leading to deforestation, expansion of agricultural lands and the unsustainable intensification of animal production.

Addressing uncertainties surrounding Covid-19, the statement said that while its exact source remains unknown, all available evidence suggests that the Covid-19 is a zoonosis, a disease that jumped from animals to humans.

As such, WWF lauded the Chinese government that, on February 24, announced a comprehensive ban on the consumption of wild animals.

The National People's Congress also expressed recent support to the revision of the existing law on the protection of wildlife, which, if implemented in full, could position China's Wildlife Protection Law as one of the world's most robust and stringent.

"Other governments must also follow suit and close their high-risk wildlife markets and end this trade once and for all," the press release said.

"All these actions will help prevent the spillover of pathogens to humans and also address other global risks to our society like biodiversity loss and climate change," WWF International Director-General Marco Lambertini was quoted as saying.

Seng Teak, country director of WWF-Cambodia, said enforcement efforts by the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture have been unwavering, adding the circular issued last year by the Monduliri provincial hall has significantly contributed to reducing the availability of wildlife products and wild meat at provincial markets and restaurants.

"Urgent and appropriate measures are needed to end the trade in wild animals — especially mammals, birds and reptiles which are at high risk of transmitting diseases to humans — in order to ensure that Cambodian people remain safe and healthy and that the next zoonotic outbreak doesn't start here," he said.

Environment Ministry spokesman Neth Pheaktra told Khmer Times yesterday that despite persistent challenges, Cambodia would continue to strengthen law enforcement for wildlife trafficking, increase awareness-raising campaigns and improve the living conditions of communities around the protected areas to deter them from committing forestry crimes and instead look to sustainable livelihoods.

A report from the Ministry of Environment revealed that during the first quarter of this year, 2,333 forestry crimes have been reported, with nearly 200 people sent to court. The crimes involved the removal of 8,950 snares and seizure of 239 hunting weapons.

Source: <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/06/26/news/world/wildlife-trading-must-be-banned-wwf/735345/>



A baby elephant is unable to move with its body chained to poles.

Screengrab from World Animal Protection UK's Elephant "Crush": exposed video

Video shows abusive taming of baby elephant for Thai tourism

(Agence France-Presse) - June 25, 2020 - 12:03pm

BANGKOK, Thailand — Footage of a distressed baby elephant jabbed by bullhooks at a Thai camp to tame it before joining the tourist industry has been released by conservationists in an appeal to end the practice.

The footage, taken on a hidden camera last year and published Wednesday by UK-based animal rights group World Animal Protection (WAP), shows what they say is the forced separation of a two-year-old female elephant from her mother.

The distraught calf is confined to a small space known as the "crush box" and held by chains and ropes for days as she struggles to escape.

Calves are repeatedly jabbed with a bullhook, a long rod with a sharpened metal tip, to get them to understand basic commands, sometimes causing bleeding.

About 3,000 domesticated elephants work in Thailand's tourism sector, used for rides and performing tricks for travellers.

Animal rights activists have long argued that elephants endure abuse in the tourism industry, starting with the so-called "crush" process to tame them when young.

"We need to ensure that this is the last generation of elephants used for commercial tourism," Jan Schmidt-Burbach, a wildlife veterinarian with WAP, told AFP.

WAP has not released details of the location of the camp to avoid repercussions for the people who shot the video.

To avoid starvation as the coronavirus halts global travel, hundreds of elephants are back in their home villages with their handlers.

But Thailand's plans to relax some travel restrictions in the coming weeks, if the virus remains contained, have conservationists fearing the return of "the crush".

Source: <https://www.philstar.com/world/2020/06/25/2023491/video-shows-abusive-taming-baby-elephant-thai-tourism>

Mga unggoy, dumagsa sa isang lungsod sa Thailand; mga tao, problemado

Hunyo 25, 2020 10:36pm GMT+08:00

Sinusubukan ngayong bawiin ng mga tao sa Lopburi, Thailand ang kanilang lungsod matapos itong dagsain at gawing tirahan ng napakaraming unggoy. Ang mga hayop, patuloy pang dumadami.

Sa Twitter post ng Agence France Presse, sinabing madalas nang makikita sa kalye ng Lopburi ang mga unggoy na naghahabulan para makakuha ng pagkain.

Libo-libong mga unggoy din ang naninirahan sa Khmer temple. Ang isang shop owner, naisipang maglagay ng laruang ulo ng buwaya at tigre sa kaniyang tindahan bilang panakot sa mga unggoy.

Napagastos na naman ng higit 10,000 euros ang isang ginang para mabakuran ang kaniyang courtyard, at tila siya na ang nakulong sa sarili niyang tirahan.

VIDEO: Humans try to take back Thai city from monkeys

Residents barricaded indoors, rival gang fights and no-go zones for humans. Welcome to Lopburi, an ancient Thai city overrun by monkeys super-charged on junk food, whose population is growing out of control pic.twitter.com/y8YJZMnlKH

— AFP news agency (@AFP) [June 25, 2020](#)

Dahil sa mga unggoy, ilang nakaparadang sasakyan ang nasisira, nagkalat ang mga basura sa lansangan, at napuwersang magsara ang ilang mga negosyo.

Pero palala pa nang palala ang sitwasyon sa patuloy na pagdami ng populasyon ng mga unggoy.

"It affects their health when they eat human food. The more they eat, the more energy they have, and they don't know what to do with that energy so they reproduce," sabi ni Pramot Ketampai, namumuno sa Phra Kan temple.

Pinamahayan na rin ng mga unggoy ang isang abandonadong sinehan, kung saan sila nag-aaway-away para sa kanilang mga tribo.

Sinimulan na ng mga awtoridad ang pag-sterilize at pagkapon sa mga unggoy para makontrol ang kanilang populasyon. Pinaplano na rin ang isang sanktuwaryo sa labas ng siyudad na pagdadalhan sa kanila. --**AFP/Jamil Santos/FRJ, GMANews**

Source: <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/balitambayan/umg/744240/mga-unggoy-dumagsa-sa-isang-lungsod-sa-thailand-mga-tao-problemado/story/>

Pandemic could hit drug markets as in 2008 crisis: UN

posted June 25, 2020 at 04:40 pm

by [AFP](#)

The new coronavirus pandemic could hit drug markets just as the 2008 economic crisis did, exacerbating the risks for users, the UN drugs and crime agency warned Thursday.

In its 2020 World Drug Report, the agency predicted an overall increase in drug use due to the pandemic, with a shift towards consuming cheaper products and injecting them, which carries greater risks.

Countries were also likely to reduce drug-related budgets, it warned.

They might also give less priority to interception operations and international cooperation, which would make it easier for traffickers to operate.

Rising unemployment and a lack of opportunities would increase the chances that "poor and disadvantaged people... turn to illicit activities linked to drugs -- either production or transport". "The COVID-19 crisis and economic downturn threaten to compound drug dangers further still, when our health and social systems have been brought to the brink and our societies are struggling to cope," said UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly.

"We need all governments to show greater solidarity and provide support, to developing countries most of all, to tackle illicit drug trafficking and offer evidence-based services for drug use disorders and related diseases."

The Vienna-based agency said it had reached its conclusions based on what had happened in the wake of the 2008 economic crisis.

Drug shipments by sea

Border closures and other measures linked to the pandemic have already caused shortages of drugs on the street, leading to higher prices and reduced purity, the report noted.

Drug traffickers seemed to rely more on maritime routes, such as direct cocaine shipments by sea from South America to Europe.

Online trafficking via the darknet, which offers users total anonymity, and shipments by mail might also increase, it added.

Drug consumption overall is already on the rise, especially in developing countries, said the report. While in 2009 an estimated 210 million people worldwide used drugs at least once, in 2018 that figure was closer to 269 million -- or 5.3 percent of the global population.

The report, which mostly examined data up to early 2019, also noted that use of cocaine and methamphetamine was rising, with the methamphetamine markets in Afghanistan and Iraq growing. Global cocaine production again reached an all-time high, continuing its record-setting trend. Cannabis remains the most widely used drug worldwide with an estimated 192 million users in 2018. But opioids, used by around 58 million people, remained the most harmful.